

Bush: U.S. not involved in Libya fire

CAIRO (AP) — In a telephone call, President George Bush assured President Hosni Mubarak Saturday that the United States was not involved in a fire at a suspected chemical weapons plant in Libya. Mubarak initiated the long call, said the state-run Middle East News Agency, but the agency did not say which leader brought up Wednesday night's blaze at Rabta chemical plant northeast of Tripoli, Libya's capital (see page 2). Neither did the report, which appeared to be a handout from Mubarak's office, indicate whether Bush volunteered his denial of U.S. involvement or made it a response to a question from Mubarak. "President Bush assured President Mubarak... that he had nothing to do with what happened lately in the Libyan Jamahiriya, despite previously declared U.S. objections to industrial sites that might be related to chemical weapons," the agency said. The United States had charged the Rabta plant was for the manufacture of chemical weapons. Libya insists it was to produce pharmaceuticals.

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Rights group hits Sudan

NAIROBI (AP) — A leading human rights organization estimates that at least half a million civilians have been killed by war and famine in Sudan since 1986 and calls the country's current government "exceptionally cruel and indifferent." In a 140-page report released in Nairobi and elsewhere Sunday, Africa Watch said responsibility for the "deaths of so many innocent Sudanese civilians" is borne by "the Sudanese armed forces, militia groups armed, organized and encouraged by successive governments; and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)." The New York-based organization said the seven-year-old civil war between the SPLA and the government "has been characterized by gross violations of human rights on a scale so substantial that Sudan is being torn apart." It noted a United Nations estimate that 250,000 people died as a result of famine in 1988 alone and said the famine was caused by "deliberate policies adopted both by the government and the SPLA." These tactics included obstructing relief supplies, obstructing or distorting commercial food markets and preventing famine-stricken populations from finding food in the countryside, Africa Watch said.

Cabinet allocates funds to institutions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Mass'adeh, approved the distribution of JD 371,000 among various institutions in the Kingdom, JD 6,000 for the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to finance some of the association's activities. The Cabinet also approved the draft budget, and personnel structure of the Institute of Public Administration and the education tax. The institute's budget for this year amounted to JD 233,000 while the estimated education tax is JD 4.4 million.

Ben Ali receives King's message

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Saturday received a written message from His Majesty King Hussein, chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). Jordan's Ambassador to Tunis, Talaat Al-Hassan, who delivered the message, said that it dealt with promoting relations between the two countries and bolstering cooperation and coordination between the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union. Hassan said that he conveyed the King's greetings to Ben Ali, current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, and His Majesty's wishes to the Tunisian president and people for further progress and prosperity. The Tunisian president affirmed his keen interest to promote and develop cooperation and between Tunisia and Jordan and between the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union, the ambassador said.

Badran in Sanaa

SANA'A (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran arrived here Saturday at the head of a Jordanian delegation for the joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee meetings which were due to open late Saturday. Badran was welcomed by his North Yemeni counterpart Abdul Aziz Abdin Ghani, who will co-chair the two-day meetings with Badran. In a statement upon arrival Badran said he hoped that the meeting would lead to further steps towards greater integration and cooperation between the two countries. Accompanying the prime minister to the meeting in Sana'a are the ministers of health, public works and housing, industry and trade, education, energy and mineral resources as well as the Ministry of Industry and Trade's secretary general.

De Michelis arrives in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis arrived Saturday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral cooperation and how to push forward the Middle East peace process. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid greeted de Michelis at Cairo international airport and escorted him immediately to a meeting with Mubarak at the president's private residence. At the airport, de Michelis said nothing to reporters but Abdul Meguid said talks would focus on how Italy, as a member of the European Community, could help the search for Middle East peace. Under the community's rotating presidency system, Italy takes over July 1 for six months.

Lithuanians elect Communist deputy premier

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuania's legislature elected a popular communist official as deputy premier Saturday and the Baltic state's president rejected Moscow's deadline for reversing its declaration of independence. Estonia and Latvia also prepared Saturday for parliamentary elections Sunday that were expected to elect pro-independence lawmakers. Leading up to the elections, Lithuanians rallied Friday night in the capital Vilnius and ardent demonstrators planned protests in their capital Riga Sunday. Lithuania's legislature forced the popular Communist official and former Lithuanian resident, Algirdas Brazauskas, to a vote of 123-3.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday meets with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter (Petra photo)

Carter briefs Regent on his talks in Egypt and Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday met with former American President Jimmy Carter, who briefed him on the nature of his current tour in the region.

Carter also spoke about his endeavours for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to be preceded by a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Qasem presented to Carter an outline of Jordan's policy with regard to the developments in the Palestinian issue, noting the various obstacles that impede a settlement and referring to Israel's intransigent position and Israel's total disregard to the re-

quirements of peace, Petra said.

He also spoke about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis Jewish immigration to Palestine and Israel's announced intentions to create a "greater Israel."

Carter visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its president, Hani Al Mulqi, who briefed him on its function and plans.

The former U.S. president held a meeting with senior journalists and leading personalities in Jordan Saturday evening and briefed them on the nature of his current visit to the region.

Carter also had a meeting with

Carter defends Camp David, says Jewish immigration impedes peace

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

from the agreement in light of the present-day circumstances."

AMMAN — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter urged Arab leaders Saturday to reconsider the 1979 Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt to the right direction.

He described his efforts to reconcile the Arabs and Israel while he was in office as a "hard task."

Carter also described mass Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as "an impediment to peace."

Carter declared: "If you go back now and reexamine the Camp David agreement, you would see that it provides a framework for peace."

His comments were made during an informal meeting with members of parliament, which was open to the press.

Carter, who brokered the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty, said: "I don't maintain that the Camp David accord is a perfect document, but it can obviously be a binding document."

Carter said that Soviet officials over Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories, Carter said: "I share this concern with you."

"To the extent that Israeli officials are using the Soviet Jewish immigration to populate the occupied territories, it is indeed counter-productive, an impediment to peace and an unacceptable exploitation of the Soviet Jews who deserve support and peaceful existence and an opportunity to be free," he said.

Carter explained that Soviet officials had approved the Camp David accord, which includes the recognition of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

Carter said: "This was the first time Israel ever approved Resolution 242."

Carter said that Arab leaders could select "the parts they want

to stay there."

Carter supported convening an international peace conference on the Middle East after the Arabs and Israel "reach an adequate and mutual trust."

"At this stage, I'm strongly supportive of a step by step approach," he said.

Commenting on the fall of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government, and efforts to form a new administration led by rival Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, Carter said: "Mr. Shamir has never been ready to sit and talk to Palestinians."

"Labour are ready... to advocate that a decision has to be made to begin talks with the Palestinians," he added.

"It might not amount to much. We might be disappointed. But it opens the door, a crack at least, for Palestinians and Israelis to reach a common ground."

Carter and his wife Rosalyn flew in from Syria Friday on the third leg of a Middle East fact-finding mission which has also taken him to Cairo. He will visit Israel and the occupied territories Sunday.

After that, Carter has said he would go to Tunis to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

His visit is the fourth since he left office in 1981. Carter last visited the region in 1983.

3 Palestinians found dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Saturday shot and wounded four Palestinians while dispersing stone-throwing protesters, including an 11-year-old boy in Jabaliya village in at least three places in the Gaza Strip, reports said.

Three Palestinian men died meanwhile of mysterious or disputed circumstances in the occupied territories, Arab reports said.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, unknown assailants fired four fatal gunshots at Mazen Bishawi, 28, in his clothing and cosmetics shop. Bishawi died en route to hospital of head and chest wounds, the reports said.

Reporters said it was unclear why Bishawi was killed and that he was not known to be a collaborator with Israel.

laborator with Israel. Israel Radio said he may have been killed by accident.

According to reports, Bishawi's younger brother Nasser, 26, was shot in the legs three months ago by activists as an alleged collaborator with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Since the start of the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising, some 663 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and another 198 slain by unknown assailants as accused collaborators with Israel.

Forty-three Israelis also have died in the unrest.

A second Palestinian death was reported in Jerusalem, where the body of a 65-year-old man from Ramallah was found in an abandoned building near the old walled city, city police said.

An autopsy was being conducted to determine the cause of death, police said.

The visit came as tens of thousands of Iraqis took to the streets in all major cities to denounce Britain for withdrawing

its troops from Kuwait.

Democracy is real guarantor for security, future — Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that although Jordan is facing a very serious financial situation unprecedented in its history, the democracy in the Kingdom was a real guarantor of the country's security and future.

"The British aid," he recalled. "However, Arab financial assistance failed to materialize and the country had to turn to American aid since it always remained committed to the Palestinian cause, which added to its financial burdens."

"But, now, the Kingdom is facing serious financial problems which will take a long time to resolve," Badran told Al Jadid magazine published to be Monday.

"But, democracy is the real safety-valve for the safety and security of the Kingdom," he said.

The prime minister said there had been parliamentary life in Jordan over the past years the Kingdom would not have been facing the present situation since parliamentarians would have intervened and blocked government actions which led to the situation.

In the interview, excerpts from which were carried in advance by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday, the prime minister reviewed the economic and political history of Jordan.

Ever since it was created as an emirate in the 1920s, Jordan always needed financial aid, he noted. "Britain used to grant the Emirate of Transjordan JD 6 million in aid (every year), then JD 12 million and later JD 16 million under a treaty which was cancelled when Arab countries pledged assistance to substitute

the British aid," he recalled. "However, Arab financial assistance failed to materialize and the country had to turn to American aid since it always remained committed to the Palestinian cause, which added to its financial burdens."

"But, now, the Kingdom is facing serious financial problems which will take a long time to resolve," Badran told Al Jadid.

Following are major excerpts from the interview:

The Kingdom now faces real economic and financial imbalances which disrupted the national economy's various aspects. The Jordanian dinar, which was the pride of the Kingdom, was considered like gold, specially by the West Bank citizens who used to depend on it as a solid currency.

The Kingdom issued the JD 20 bill to make it easier for the West Bank citizens to use the Jordanian currency, which they preferred to the U.S. dollar.

Following the decision to sever ties with the West Bank, administrative procedures were taken that led to further deterioration in the value of the national currency. I had at the time cautioned against administrative action which would have no beneficial effect. My advice was the West Bankers should retain Jordanian nationality because they had no other option.

But the measures prompted the West Bank citizens to consider the Jordanian decision not as a political one and consequently they wanted to get rid of the dinar as soon as possible. At least JD 90 million were brought to Jordan and exchanged for dollars, and this put further pressure on the Jordanian economy.

The exchange rate of the U.S.

dollar rose against the dinar and at times it reached 115 piasters, causing confusion and a feverish rush for foreign currencies in the local market.

In short, the national currency collapsed and the country had no more foreign currency while the ordinary citizens were left to face the ugly face of soaring prices and high cost of living. This was followed by the introduction of an economic restructuring programme without ample preparation and without putting the public in the right picture about the financial and economic situation in the country.

The government used to give pledges that there will be no rise in prices, but the prices rose the following day.

We always say that successive governments bear continued responsibility, but this schism has been deep. There is an economic and financial disorder in many aspects of our life.

As a result, the price line in Jordan began to rise and what happened in the south (in April 1989) was only a symptom of the social condition which is far more serious than an external threat.

King Hussein returned home speedily to calm down the situation and Sandi Arabia came to Jordan's aid by providing urgent financial assistance.

With the election of a new parliament (and the assumption of office) by a new government, matters began to stabilize again, especially after the Central Bank of Jordan succeeded in fixing an exchange rate for the Jordanian dinar against foreign currency.

Had we had Parliament over the past years, the deputies would have stopped the government from excesses and would have voted it out of office.

In Jordan there are no more political prisoners and those convicted for non-political crimes should not be

considered political prisoners.

Jordan, along with the rest of the Arab countries, is now facing the influx of Jewish immigrants to Palestine. In the past only 10 per cent of the Soviet and European Jews chose to settle in Israel but the Zionist lobby in the United States is now pressing for more and trying to ensure that all Jews settle in Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

Jordan was the first Arab country to work against the danger, and it succeeded in preventing direct air flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv. But the question is far from being settled, and we are witnessing the emergence of settlements in the occupied lands. This is a great danger we are facing.

I talked to the Soviet ambassador in Amman recently and explained our position and said that Jordan realizes the kind of pressures on Moscow but I really did not believe that the Soviet Union will succumb to the will of the Zionists and allow this big number to emigrate.

I told the Soviet ambassador to look into the rights of other people and noted that the Jewish immigrants were bound to settle on Palestinian lands and that let us solve the Palestine question and then the Jews can come to Palestine.

Since 1967, all American presidents have been pledged to resolve the Palestine question and (Ronald) Reagan gave a pledge to King Hussein that he will solve the issue before his second term in office comes to an end.

The U.S. and Israel have no belief in people's rights, they only believe in power; the weak has no right in this international society. That is why the ACC and other Arab groupings must build their own power, since we do not intend to be an easy prey to this world.

Ministry of Education reinstates 153 teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education announced Saturday that it has reinstated 153 teachers who had been dismissed for political reasons or did not get jobs on political grounds.

The Regent stressed the responsibility of all professional unions before the Jordanian society and said that unions can provide training for all able-bodied Jordanians who can work and contribute to the productive process.

The Regent heard a speech by Dr. Mamduh Al Abbadi, the Jordanian Medical Association president, who voiced the group's appreciation of Prince Hassan's views. He said that professional unions were now preparing for a general conference to be held in May in Amman to discuss the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine.

He reviewed urgent issues, including the question of public

freedoms, unemployment and democracy. He called for organized collective work that can best serve the national interests.

The Regent stressed the responsibility of all professional unions before the Jordanian society and said that unions can provide training for all able-bodied Jordanians who can work and contribute to the productive process.

"This figure represents half of the total number of teachers who had submitted requests to the ministry for reappointment after being dismissed for political reasons," according to a statement issued by the ministry.

The ministry said that it was considering the applications of the rest of the teachers and would give them priority in filling positions in different regions. The government said the ministry had submitted requests by 79 teachers to the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which normally processes applications for employment in government departments.

Acting upon instructions from the government, the Ministry of Education announced last month that it had reappointed 74 men and women teachers who had been dismissed for political reasons. The reappointment of

these teachers and other government employees was demanded by the Lower House of Parliament.

Last Wednesday a sit-in was staged outside the Prime Ministry office in Amman in protest against delays in the reinstatement of 950 persons dismissed from jobs for political reasons.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Mass'adeh, who met a delegation representing the dismissed persons, reaffirmed the government's commitment to

Parliament has proven its independence — Masri

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament has proved over the past few months that it is an independent institution capable of exercising full rights in accordance with the constitution, Lower House of Parliament Deputy Tamer Al Masri said on television Saturday evening.

"Parliament has been able to bring about a change in the government's attitude since there are no taboos on anything for Parliament," Masri said in a programme broadcast by television's Channel Two.

"Previously the government was tight-lipped about foreign debts and did not reveal any figures to the public," said Masri, a former minister. "Now the picture has changed and the executive authority is cooperating closely with Parliament in revealing the facts," he said.

Masri was speaking on the eve of a parliamentary session called

for Sunday to discuss the income tax law and to fix a date for a session to discuss questions related to the national debt and corruption.

He said that Parliament members were now able to raise sensitive issues with the government such as security measures and seizure of passports and demand answers. But he said that the people have to realise that Parliament also has limited powers although it can control and monitor the government's actions.

Masri, who is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House, said that Jordan's foreign policy was a blend of regional and international questions and Parliament could deal with these questions through cooperation with the executive authority. However, Masri said, there are no big differences between the government and Parliament as far as viewpoints on foreign policy are concerned.

Referring to the developments in Israel, Masri said that Israelis now stand at a turning point, especially as the recent political events came in the wake of differences over the question of talking to the Palestinians.

Masri said that with regard to the Israeli government crisis the U.S. administration has played a positive role. "The U.S. administration has talked in a manner that disturbed Israeli leaders and I believe that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's insistence on receiving answers to his questions about Jewish settlements had had its effect," Masri said.

"President Bush has had many achievements in the past 15 months of his mandate and I believe that he can build on this in terms of policies related to the Middle East," he said.

He said that had the Arabs been more united, the chance would have been better for the major world powers to hear their



Tamer Al Masri

views and help bring about a speedy end to the conflict.

"There is no need to declare war or withdraw our Arab assets and funds from the United States to make it understand that we are serious," he said.

"It is enough for the Arabs to adopt a certain foreign policy and make it known to all and it is enough to pool Arab resources to make the world understand the Arab Nation's position," he said.

Ex-official under probe released on bail

By Ghadeer Tamer
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A former Ministry of Supply official who was detained last month in what was seen as the first attempt to try officials for financial mismanagement has been released on JD 250,000 bail and the prosecutor-general is planning to expand the investigations into the affair, legal sources said Saturday.

Abdullah Hawamdeh, former secretary-general of the Ministry of Supply, was released early this week on bail "because the questioning has been completed and in consideration of his poor health," Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen told the Jordan Times Saturday. Hawamdeh

was detained last month after his return from England where he underwent heart surgery.

The case involves alleged misuse of funds and embezzlement related to government purchase of rice in April 1989 worth over \$700,000, according to a Prime Ministry source.

Attorney General Mohammad Smadi has instructed District Attorney Mohammad Khrishan to investigate further into the affair, and it is believed that some others could be implicated in the case, other informed sources said.

The district attorney's office is expected today to issue a formal order for investigations into "others involved in the rice deal, including a major local com-

pany," said one of the source. It was not immediately clear when the prosecutor-general's office planned to file formal charges in the case, but some sources said it could come as early as next week.

The formal charges are expected to include "abusing an official position for profit-seeking," said the source.

Hawamdeh, who was detained Feb. 17, was refused bail at least twice while hospitalised under custody. The third bid for bail was successful since a new medical report showed that his heart condition warranted rest, according to the source. However, the passport of the former official remained in custody, the source added.

According to another source, the defence of Hawamdeh will be based on an argument that the treasury did not suffer any losses in the rice deal since "prices were readjusted after the tender was awarded and the necessary allocation was made."

However, according to the Prime Minister source, "Hawamdeh overstepped his authority" in changing the tender after the allocation was made.

Several senior officials of the Ministry of Supply, including at least one former minister, Fayed Tarawneh, were asked to give their testimonies in the case during investigations, the source said. It was not known whether any of them would be called to testify in court as and when the case comes up for trial.

Italy concerned over Israel's intransigence

ROME (Petra) — Italian President Francesco Cossiga has expressed his country's concern over Israel's continued intransigence and said that Israel's offer to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories can be by no means serve as a substitute for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Italian president was speaking in Rome upon receiving the credentials of the new Jordanian Ambassador to Italy Hassan Abu Ni'meh who conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein.

Cossiga described the waves of Jewish immigrants in Palestine as a dangerous development in the region, and he paid tribute to Jordanian-Italian relations.

"We, in Italy, highly appreciate the on-going efforts of King Hussein to establish peace in the region," the president said. He said that Jordan's role in any peace process will remain essential and basic to Middle East politics.

Cossiga said that Italy supports Jordan's role because it is deeply concerned with the Palestine problem.

Traders to increase exports to Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of Jordanian industrialists have had successful talks with European importers of ready-made clothes, leather products and contacts are underway with importers to conclude contracts to sell Jordanian products in Europe, according to a statement by the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC).

The JCCC said that a group of industrialists representing six Jordanian factories and a JCCC representative have toured markets in Britain, West Germany, Sweden and Holland to promote

local products.

According to the statement Jordan's exports to Europe last year amounted to JD 16 million out of which JD 1 million was for clothes.

In another development, a group of Jordanian businessmen Saturday called for the creation of a joint institution for the four-member Arab Cooperation Council to be entrusted with importing all the ACC countries needs of primary materials, food and industrial products and also exporting national products to other countries.

Corporation awards Salt housing contract

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation Saturday awarded a local construction firm a two-year contract for the construction of housing units in the city of Salt and invited residents of the town to apply for units in the project.

Housing Corporation Director-General Yousef Hiyasat, who signed the deal, said that 109 units in the project would have only one floor of 79 square metres but beneficiaries could expand the area horizontally to 136 square metres.

He said that there would also be 47 housing units of 91 square metres, which can be expanded horizontally or vertically to 130 square metres.

The Housing Corporation will first build four housing units of the first category and eight units of the second category to serve as a model for the beneficiaries to choose from," Hiyasat noted in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In addition, he said, the project site will have 34 plots of land on which beneficiaries can build their homes according to their own desires.

The project will be supplied with an infrastructure of roads, electricity, water and sewerage networks as well as public gardens and children's playgrounds," Hiyasat said.

"For the first time the corporation will introduce a system of savings for housing for which guidelines are being worked out at the moment," Hiyasat added.

He said each beneficiary would be free to choose his or her repayment period for the loan. Those who are involved in the savings system for housing can obtain their houses in six years, he said but did not elaborate.

According to Housing Corporation regulations, a beneficiary can spread instalments over 30 years and is normally insured under an arrangement between the corporation and an insurance company for continued ownership of the unit for the family in case of death of the original owner.

According to Hiyasat, the corporation is trying to reduce the cost of buildings and offers beneficiaries relatively small units which can be expanded. It is also trying to offer the chance to others to own a plot of land near the project site on which they can build their own homes.

To date, the largest housing estate ever implemented by the corporation in Jordan is that of the Abu Nasir Housing Estate north-west of here. It includes 4,500 housing units.

Meanwhile, a special government committee on loans for housing and agricultural projects has recommended that state-owned lands be commissioned to the Housing Corporation which can use them for housing projects.

"The granting of state-owned land to beneficiaries will drastically reduce the cost of the corporation's housing schemes," said a statement issued by the committee, which was set up directives from Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The committee also recommended that the treasury shoulder the cost of operating administrative and technical services, supervising housing schemes and that special allocations should be made available to the Housing Corporation so that it can carry out infrastructure projects without demanding the beneficiaries to foot the bill.

Jordan, Oman pave way for education, culture pact

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Oman Saturday signed an executive programme to implement a 1990-1992 educational and cultural agreement which paves the way for cooperation in education, vocational training, higher education, culture, sports, youth and social affairs.

The Ministry of Education in Jordan will provide Oman with teachers and vocational instructors as well as school administrators, school supervisors and other specialised personnel in education. Jordan will facilitate the work of Oman committees which arrive here to select teachers, technicians and administrators, according to the agreement signed by Dr. Safwan Tongan,

Minister of Planning's secret-

ary-general, and Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Sultan.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will organise joint training courses in vocational training and general education, will exchange books and school curricula and work out special principles for the equivalence of certificates and cooperate in other related fields.

The two sides agreed to exchange expertise, consultations and information pertaining to schools and each will grant the other scholarships and change manuscripts and documents pertaining to culture and education.

They will also jointly prepare for seminars in which lectures from either country will take part.

Regent urges Arab Nation to invest in all resources

CAIRO (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday urged the United Nations to adopt a programme that can provide for multipurpose tasks in the Arab World and which can promote inter-Arab cooperation.

"We are not fully satisfied with the achievements of the past decade and we are not sure that

development was progressing well in all parts of the Arab World especially in the second half of the 1980s and therefore we are looking for ways to revive development through sound planning, through positive cooperation and further cohesion among the various countries of the Arab World," the Prince said.

"In the 1980s, the Arab World began to realise the dangers of backwardness in Jordan, and through the Arab Thought Forum, we have taken modest steps to promote education and began to work together with the Arab countries towards ensuring food, social and military security and try to solve other issues plaguing the Arab World like illiteracy." The Regent said that the Arab World has now realised the hostility it is facing from other nations and the siege being imposed on the Arabs and realised the extent of backwardness in terms of technology and the need to free the Arabs from total dependence on others.

Prince Hassan said that the symposium was a precious opportunity to benefit from a fruitful relationship and cooperation with the United Nations, and a chance for the experts to link oil and energy with development in the Arab World.

A two-member delegation from Jordan is attending the meetings which will review economic and social developments in the 1980s and prospects for Arab development.

The symposium was organised by the United Nations Development Programme, the Arab Thought Forum and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Aid fund, JPMC help south

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Aid Fund and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company have earmarked JD 1 million each in emergency aid to relieve drought-stricken farmers in the southern region, a Jordanian official said Saturday.

The official told the Jordan Times that the meeting was "a candid exchange of views and a dialogue aimed at taking steps to address the drought problem."

During a three-day debate on the national budget last month, deputies demanded more government spending on development projects and services for their respective constituencies. Prime Minister Mudar Badran was expected to visit the southern region next week to get acquainted with problems facing the population in light of a report presented by a ministerial committee established for that purpose.

Problems facing the southern governors of Maan Karak and Tafileh came into focus Friday during a meeting at Mu'ta University attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Mudar Badran who was also a deputy for Maan.

Karabiti, who spoke at Friday's meeting, said that due to limitations imposed by the budget, "there is a need to find other ways to address developmental requirements in the country."

The Lower House of Parliament meets Sunday to debate a proposal tabled by 12 deputies to hold a closed session to discuss the house financial committee's report on the Kingdom's foreign debt and financial and administrative corruption.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent meets Islamic judges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited the office of Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan and met with Islamic court judges to discuss issues pertaining to their tasks and Sharia (Islamic law) court. In a brief address to the meeting the Regent urged judges to promote the social and humanitarian face of the Sharia judiciary in all matters related to personal and civil status in Islam. He also urged judges to corroborate the principles and rules that control family life in Jordan in accordance with Islamic law. At the meeting the Regent heard a briefing by Sheikh Mheilan on the services offered by his office in various parts of the Kingdom and the occupied West Bank.

Charity bazaar scheduled for tomorrow

AMMAN (I.T.) — The first charity bazaar by "The Promise Welfare Society" will be held at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Monday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal. The one day bazaar will display mounds day gifts, food stuffs for the month of Ramadan and a charity lottery.

Jordan, Tunisia to boost cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisia and Jordan Saturday signed an agreement paving the way for coordination and cooperation in youth affairs. The agreement provides for allocation for scholarships for studies in institutions in the two countries, joint sports and youth training camps, exchange of visits by groups from Tunisia and Jordan and cooperation between the two countries' Olympic committees in youth and sports affairs. The agreement, which was signed by Qasem Ghoshe, secretary-general of the Ministry of Youth, and Mora Daraji, director of physical training in Tunisia, also provides for exchanges of expertise and cooperation in setting up regulations in sports and youth activities.

Nurses elect association officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Yousef Hassan Khalil was elected Saturday president of Jordanian Nurses Association. A total of 278 nurses took part in the election process at the Professional Associations Complex. Ten nurses were elected as members of the association's board of directors.

Deputy meets Thiban constituents

MADABA (Petra) — Deputy Abdul Hafiz Allawi Saturday discussed with Thiban district citizens the democratic experiment in Jordan and the district's needs. Allawi said the democratic life in Jordan had made big steps in the field of public freedoms and in following up different issues of interest to the country and the citizens. Allawi called everyone to work in the spirit of collective action to bring this experience to success. The citizens briefed the deputy on their needs, mainly improved telephone services, reoperating the Al Walah agricultural station, drilling artesian wells in Al Walah region and improving and opening agricultural roads.

Jordan Times

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New hope for Israel

THE RESULT of the vote in the Israeli Knesset Thursday on the motion of no-confidence in Yitzhak Shamir must have come as a great upset to the Israeli prime minister who was hoping against hope to survive the cabinet crisis that he has precipitated over U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks. In this context, the U.S. plan for such talks deserves credit for bringing down the leadership of Shamir who has shown nothing but obstinacy on the need to make peace in the Middle East. And thus a formidable obstacle to peace in the Middle East has hopefully been removed from the political scene in Israel. The next question is whether Shamir's Likud partners would draw the necessary conclusions from the first-ever fall of an Israeli government by a deliberate refusal of the Knesset to grant it a vote of confidence. In a deeply divided country as Israel, a 60-against-55 vote of no confidence in Shamir tells an encouraging story about the Israeli mood and sentiment on the war and peace issue foremost among which is the rejection of Shamir's doctrinaire views against giving up Arab territories by at least half of his countrymen. The coming few days will show more clearly if in fact an entirely new era has been ushered in Israel. If Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, fails to muster enough strength and support to form a new government, then the Israelis would obviously have to go to another national elections which will determine for certain which way the peace process in the Middle East will turn. Hopefully this time around, the Israeli electorate would opt for peace and accommodation with the Palestinians and their other Arab neighbours. There is now an opportunity of a life-time to achieve the elusive goal of peace between Israel and the Arab World and it will be catastrophic if this rare chance is allowed to slip away. And if, as projected, Peres will be able to form the next government, it would be interesting to see how faithful he will be with all the pious talk that he has been uttering of late on peace terms with the Arab side. The Arab World cannot and will not ever forget that successive Israeli governments under the leadership of the Labour Party had damaged many peace prospects with the Arabs for more than two decades.

Perhaps the hard experience that the Labour constituents had acquired over the past years have contributed to a change of heart. If this will be borne out in the near future by the new chapter in Israeli politics then there is hope that peace could finally come to the Holy Land.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

KING Hussein at a meeting with the British foreign secretary on Thursday renewed a call to the international community to act speedily to achieve peace in the Middle East, warning of the grave danger that could ensue in the absence of security and peace, Al Ra'i daily said on Saturday. The King also called attention to the dangers at a meeting with American journalists based in Britain and also in his interview with Voice of America when he expressed Jordan's determination to remain as a strong fortress defending the Arab Nation, the paper noted. King Hussein, said the paper, has thus reminded the world of the serious situation in the Arab region, calling on all peace-loving nations to take proper moves designed to establish real stability and security in the Middle East. The King, who spoke on behalf of the other members in the Arab Cooperation Council drew attention to the dangers inherent in Jewish immigration into Palestine, noting with satisfaction the European Community's stand which was expressed in a statement on the issue, the paper noted. It said that King Hussein has urged the community to translate this statement into practical steps that can deal with the situation and end Israel's illegal practices designed to uproot the Palestinians from their homeland in order to settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants in Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday calls on the Lower House of Parliament to declare to the public everything about investigations into corruption and economic crimes, subjects which will be debated in the House's Sunday session. Tareq Masarweh says that Parliament should issue a call to all citizens who have information that could shed light on the persons responsible for these crimes to come forward and present them to the people, otherwise crimes will spread and those responsible for corruption will escape all retribution. The writer says whether the session was held in secret or in public, the masses realise too well that corruption was flourishing and crimes were committed, leading to the present difficult situation in Jordan. Parliament will not find written documents signed by those officials in high positions, considered responsible for manipulation, abuse of power, corruption and embezzlement, but can seek public help to reveal the identity of these officials, the writer points out. He says that the sale of gold from the Central Bank of Jordan without proper authorisation, was only one example of mismanagement and corruption which Parliament has to look into and reach a verdict.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Saturday commented on the downfall of the Shamir government and the grueling debates and behind-the-scenes consultations over the formation of a new government probably led by Shimon Peres, the leader of the Labour party. The paper said that Shamir, who continues to serve as prime minister of a transitional government, is expected to behave like a dictator, who could find vengeance for his failures in further atrocities and repressive measures against the Palestinian people. For this reason, the Arab World should realise that it is in for a new phase of Israeli intransigence and total disregard for Arab interests especially with regard to the question of Jewish immigration, the paper noted. It said that Shamir and his aides could now take measures designed to close the door for any peace bid and for any prospect for elections in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that the Arab Nation should not suffice itself with day dreams and should regard Israel as a real threat to Arab existence regardless of who is in power or at the helm of an Israeli government.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan's savings account is in the red

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE DEFICIT in the budget is simply the difference between revenue and expenditure; and deficit is normally funded by borrowing internally or externally. However, nothing should prevent an analyst or an economic policy-maker from calculating domestic savings i.e. before the external current income and expenses such as aid and remittances are taken into account and then calculating final saving i.e. after foreign aid.

When an analyst calculates deficit before aid, he knows that foreign aid is part of the revenue and should be taken into account upon calculating the final deficit. The distinction between the two is useful to measure domestic fiscal performance, and to compare with previous periods or other countries.

Likewise, the saving in a

given economy is the difference between current income and current expenses. However, there is nothing that should prevent an analyst or an economic policy-maker from calculating domestic savings i.e. before the external current income and expenses such as aid and remittances are taken into account and then calculating final saving i.e. after foreign aid.

In doing so, the analyst knows that current income from abroad should be taken into account before arriving at the final savings. The classification of the savings into domestic and external components is useful to understand the actual situation, and to select the appropriate policies and reach

the right conclusions.

Total consumption in any country, especially in Jordan, should be compared first to gross domestic product, and second to gross national income, and third to the disposable income. Each one of the three indicators has its own meaning and impact on the economic policy and decision-making. The variation indicates the sensitivity of the situation, the degree of exposure to external factors, and the need to adjust.

Official statistics show that Jordan's total public and private consumption is around 103 per cent of GDP. Capital formation is close to 27 per cent of GDP, and thus the balance of resources was 30 per cent in deficit. In other words, external

resources have to cover not only all our capital formation, but also part of our local consumption.

The official national accounts show that the final savings account in Jordan is positive, and that the savings of the private sector, companies and families, exceed the negative saving of the government as reflected in the budget. However, the official accounts need to be adjusted in a substantial manner. The current expenditure of the Armed Forces in the form of arms acquisition during the last ten years exceed 100 per cent of the official budget of the Armed Forces, an average of JD 300 million a year.

The annual depreciation of the accumulated capital forma-

tion has also to be accounted for as a current expense. It is estimated at JD 135 million a year.

The third adjustment is the loss of exchange on our commitments in foreign exchange, which should also be included as a current expense. It varies from one year to another but could be in the order of JD 500 million a year during the last five years.

The positive saving reflected by the official statistics is not sufficient to cover these three adjustments. This should lead us to conclude that Jordan's net saving during the eighties was not positive as suggested by the published accounts.

During the last ten years, capital formation is supposed to

have reached over JD 4.5 billion. We now discover that our net indebtedness is more than that figure, even before adding short term facilities, private sector external indebtedness, the long term lease payments of the national carrier, the non-resident accounts in the Jordanian banks, and the value of foreign and Arab investments in Jordan in the form of shares, bonds, and real estate.

Taking all these facts into consideration will result in showing that Jordan's savings were actually negative. We did not only finance all our investments by borrowed resources, we also financed part of our current expenditure by loans. Otherwise where did all these loans go if not to finance current expenses?

Unity turning out to be divisive issue for Germans

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — Unity, as the Germans are finding out, can be quite a divisive issue.

In less than four months, people in both German states and almost all political parties have rallied around the East German protesters' battle cry of "Germany — united fatherland".

But the nearer the goal, the more they argue.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl got so wrapped up in a dispute this month about Poland's western border that he risked losing his own government majority. He finally backed down.

Ibrahim Boehme, head of East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), came here this week to complain that West German conservatives were running a scare campaign against his party.

The fact that both states are furiously campaigning for elections — in the East on Sunday, in the West in December — has added a polemic touch to all politicians' statements about unity.

"Germany seems to be in an almost continual electoral process which is very good for democracy but makes policy-making sometimes a bit complicated," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd observed here last week with a polished understatement.

The chancellor rules out tax hikes to make West Germans pay for modernising East Germany's ailing economy, but economists are sceptical about what they see as a campaign promise.

— What will be united?

Both German states now agree only East and West Germany and greater Berlin will be part of the new German state.

German "eastern territories" about one-third of present-day Poland ceded by the wartime allies to Warsaw, should be made permanently Polish in a treaty to be signed after unification, they say.

East Berlin has recognised its Oder-Neisse frontier with Poland since 1950 but Kohl wanted to keep the issue open to please right-wing voters he needs in the December elections.

— How will unification proceed?

Kohl wants East Germany to simply join Bonn's federal republic by subscribing to its constitution in a quick jump towards unity allowed by article 23.

The West German SPD originally denounced this method as a sell-out of East Germany and argued for the more time-consuming path of a new constitution according to article 146. It has since drifted closer to Kohl's plan because it is faster.

But it's East Berlin that decides. Its round table of government and opposition parties

wants a new constitution but the new government could find itself under heavy pressure to go faster, i.e. choose article 23, and work out a transition.

— Will a reunited Germany be a fourth Reich?

The four wartime allies — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France — and the two Germans are discussing ways to avoid this in "two-plus-four" talks started this week.

Moscow wants a neutralised Germany but Bonn and the three Western allies argue the fatherland must be firmly anchored in NATO to keep it from threatening its neighbours.

Switching from the Warsaw Pact to NATO seems hard for East Germans to accept, but most party leaders — under pressure from their West German allies — are coming to back the idea.

— Who will pay for unification?

West Germany, no doubt about it, Bonn will soon introduce its Deutschmark as legal tender in East Germany, a step it is already paying for with slipping exchange rates and higher interest rates on world financial markets.

Kohl's government has earmarked six billion marks (\$3.5 billion) for emergency aid but refused to consider more before a democratic government is in place in East Berlin.

The chancellor rules out tax hikes to make West Germans pay for modernising East Germany's ailing economy, but economists are sceptical about what they see as a campaign promise.

— How long will unification take?

A few months? Another year? Change has come so fast that nobody dares predict anything anymore. Sometime in 1991 seems a possibility now that Kohl has ruled out turning West Germany's December elections into pan-German polls.

One option seriously considered a few weeks ago — a blitz merger after East Germany's elections — now seems less likely as both sides discover how complicated unification will be.

— Will Berlin become Germany's capital again?

About three-quarters of all West Germans support a move back to Berlin. East Germans see no reason to move from their city that has always been their capital.

In the mid-1980s, Kohl's government, convinced unity was far off, started building new ministries in Bonn. A "pro-Bonn" lobby has started campaigning against a move to Berlin.

Politicians here now expect a step-by-step move, with key ministries starting to move to Berlin in a year or so but others staying here to use the new buildings and underline the federal character of the new state.

Deep divisions in Israeli society

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — The defeat of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government reflects an Israeli society deeply divided over everything from peace with Palestinians to how to define a Jew.

Defenders of the 74-year-old former Mossad agent said he tried to bridge the extremes of right and left. Detractors said he tried to ignore them by not taking any decisions.

"Shamir tried to form a national consensus," the Jerusalem Post wrote in an editorial supporting him following Thursday's parliamentary vote. "But the pull of political polarisation made him enemies everywhere."

Forming a viable government that can take decisive action will not be easy — whether a narrow coalition led by Shamir's Likud Party or Shimon Peres' Labour Party or a broad one searching for a common denominator.

The decisive split came over attitudes toward Israeli-Palestinian talks between Labour and Likud, the two main parties in the coalition that collapsed after 15 months.

Likud demanded Israel accept a U.S. proposal for talks in Cairo aimed at advancing a peace plan first presented by Shamir 10 months ago. Shamir, after months of delay, finally refused.

Shamir cited two reasons, long-debated points that Labour was willing to ignore: start a process that might end the 27-month-long Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

Shamir insisted on excluding the 150,000 Palestinians of

east Jerusalem from any role in the Knesset as split between 14 parties with opinions across the political spectrum.

The three members of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are Arabs who advocate recognition of the PLO and establishment of a Palestinian state beside Israel.

The two members of the Moledet Party, both Jews, want to see the entire 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories transferred for other countries.

The positions of some parties are so firm that the dovish Labour or the hardline Likud can assume their support. That leaves those with less-fixed views on Palestinians holding the balance of power.

But they have a host of other demands that can make them uncomfortable partners in government. Religious parties particularly have made or broken

governments through the years — including the latest one.

The five members of Agudat Israel voted against Shamir on Thursday not over peace talks, but because he reneged on a promise to support them in the "who is a Jew?" controversy.

Agudat Israel's definition would exclude many members of the American Jewish community, the world's largest. It is one of the few issues that can mobilise U.S. Jewish pressure on the Israeli government.

"Consensus may not be inspiring," said the Jerusalem Post, a supporter of the old government. "But a grey consensus is better than a colourless society torn at the seams."

However, Israel seems doomed to choose between a narrow coalition that cannot speak for enough people and a broad government of Labour and Likud paralysed by internal differences.

LETTERS

Great pleasure

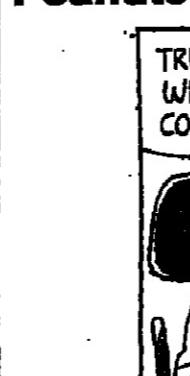
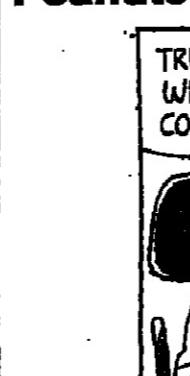
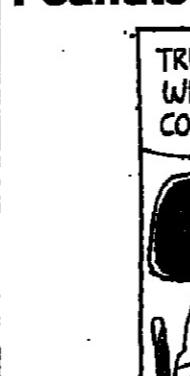
To the Editor

I VISITED Jordan recently, and via your paper, want to say how impressed I was with the hospitality, generosity and courtesy of all the Jordanians I met. From museum attendants, bedouin and policemen, to waiters and taxi drivers, everyone was extremely helpful. Whenever I went people said: "welcome to Jordan" and they really meant it.

It was a great pleasure to be in your country.

Susan Wilcock
London,
England.

Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Swiss

Une petite répétition

La première session du nouveau Parlement s'achève dans quelques jours. Quels sont les résultats de quatre mois de débats et d'activités? C'est la question, que le nombre de Jordaniens vont se poser bientôt. Une grande partie de la population a trop espéré de la Chambre des députés. Peut-être par manque d'expérience de la démocratie durant plus de deux décennies.

Au cours des années précédentes, les problèmes se sont accumulés et certains croyaient que le Parlement aurait le «échalon magique», qui peut mettre fin d'un jour à l'autre au chômage, à la vie chère, aux difficultés de l'économie nationale et surtout aux dettes extérieures du royaume. Foi espoir, qu'il illustrait, il y a quelques jours, une caricature significative parue dans les colonnes d'un confrère arabe. Un chameau, représentant la démocratie, se tient accroupi. Par l'arrière, un Jordalien le charge, ou plutôt le surcharge de gros blocs de pierre. Et l'animal de faire remarquer en souffrant: «Mets en encre et je te promets de ne plus me



budget ont offert l'occasion d'exposer les points de vue et les revendications des différentes classes sociales sur les dossier brûlants actuels. Et c'est la première fois dans les annales du Parlement jordanien.

Vaste est le public qui s'est intéressé avec curiosité ou passion aux débats de la fin de la session qui s'achève? A vrai dire, il y aura en quatre moments forts. D'abord, l'élection du président de la Chambre des députés; puis, la réponse du Parlement au discours du trône; ensuite, les longs débats et le vote de confiance au nouveau gouvernement de Moudar Badrane; enfin, la discussion du budget 1990 de l'Etat. Entre temps, la Chambre a élu ses différentes commissions, qui ont pu examiner un petit nombre de dossiers et de projets de lois.

Certains observateurs estiment que la lenteur, qui a marqué le fonctionnement de la Chambre pendant ces quatre derniers mois, est avant tout imputable à la formation de différents blocs politiques, telles les coalitions démocratique, islamique et indépendante. Et ce d'autant plus, qu'un grand nombre de députés, élus pour la première fois, n'ont qu'une modeste expérience de la tâche parlementaire. Là résiderait l'explication des dialogues de sourds, auxquels ont parfois tourné les discussions au sein de la Chambre.

Première expérience

De fait, la longue absence de vie parlementaire démocratique dans le pays et surtout l'interdiction des partis politiques pèsent de tout leur poids dans la situation actuelle. Un seul député ne pourra jamais déchiffrer tous les mystères d'un budget, comprendre et analyser toutes les facettes de la crise économique, ou encore trouver tout seul les moyens de s'orienter dans les méandres d'une loi pour pouvoir en juger les qualités, les défauts et les lacunes.

Néanmoins, les très longs débats sur le programme gouvernemental ainsi que les discussions ardues sur le

"Shihan", le mal aimé de la presse jordanienne

Canard boiteux ou premier journal populaire?

Journal à scandale, feuille de chou ignoble, hebdomadaire du sordide... Les critiques, toutes plus dures les unes que les autres, vont bon train à l'encontre de "Shihan". Notamment de la part de ses concurrents. Ryad Haroub, chirurgien, férus de



Bastard, "Shihan"? Sans doute pas pour les milliers de lecteurs, qui en achètent quelques 25.000 exemplaires chaque semaine.

"Shihan" n'a pas la cote. Du moins auprès des autres journaux jordaniens, dont les responsables ne font pas dans la dentelle quand on leur demande leur avis sur leur concurrent. Pour eux, l'hebdomadaire de langue arabe est un véritable "torchon". Un monceau de faits divers sordides, plus ou moins inventés.

La véhémence des critiques n'a d'égal que l'originalité de "Shihan" dans le paysage de la presse écrite du royaume. «Nous avons choisi de faire du reportage social. C'est notre principale matière, contrairement aux autres journaux, qui se contentent le plus souvent dans l'information officielle. Nous voulons être plus près des gens, bien plus à leur écoute que les autres», affirme Ryad Haroub, propriétaire et directeur de la rédaction de l'hebdomadaire.

«Ceux qui nous accusent d'affabuler, n'ont qu'à se renseigner sur les sujets que nous publions», ajoute-t-il, en soulignant que "Shihan" n'a aucune affection particulière pour les faits divers croustillants ou misérables (voir ci-dessous). Son ambition, clamait-il, est de proposer un journal populaire. «Car ça n'existe pas ici.»

Indésirable

Bon ou mauvais journal, Shihan a connu, dès son lancement en septembre 1984, un succès indéniable. En quelques semaines, il avait atteint une diffusion de 70.000 exemplaires.

«Sauf autant que tous les autres journaux du pays rassemblent, insiste-t-il, à la comptabilité de l'hebdomadaire. Raison de cette réussite: «Nous parlons autrement de la politique, révélant les petits secrets de nos responsables, les passe-droits, les pass...», rappelle Ryad Haroub.

La réaction des autorités n'est pas faite attendre. Le 28 décembre 1985, "Shihan" se voit prié de plier bagages. Interdit de publication en vertu de la loi martiale, le journal s'est installé à Athènes. «En moins de deux mois, nous reprenons notre travail», poursuit Ryad Haroub. Mon équipe travaillait toujours à Amman. Elle envoyait les films des pages en Grèce, où nous imprimeions. Chaque édition reprenait ensuite le chemin du pays. «Elle était visée par la censure, puis mise en kiosques. Profitant de son "exil" grec, "Shihan" s'est alors mis à la couleur. Notamment pour redresser une courbe de vente en chute libre. En février 1986, le tirage de l'hebdomadaire culminait à 20.000 exemplaires seulement.

Le titre jordanien n'était pas encore au bout de ses aventures. Il y a trois ans, le ministre de l'Information de l'époque, M. al-Khatib, rappelait Ryad Haroub à Amman, «il m'a demandé de reprendre la publication ici, même sans autorisation, pour calmer la gronde des typographies qui se plaignaient de ne pas avoir assez de travail». Le retour ne fut que temporaire. Dix mois plus tard, le patron de "Shihan" refaisait ses valises, après la publication d'une caricature satirique sur les leaders arabes, particulièrement peu appréciée par... le leader irakien Saddam Hussein.

politique et propriétaire du **paria de la presse nationale**, rejette le tout et décrit son journal comme la seule presse populaire du royaume. Une presse à succès, qui vient d'obtenir le droit de publier à nouveau à Amman. Après six années de tumulte.

Ryad Haroub

«Les autres nous imiteront bientôt»

Propriétaire et directeur de la rédaction de "Shihan", Ryad Haroub répond à ceux qui accusent son hebdomadaire d'inventer une bonne partie de ses sujets. Ses détracteurs, explique-t-il au "Jourdain", sont d'abord les autres journaux, qui «bientôt» prendront le chemin de la presse populaire.

Le Jourdain: On entend souvent dire que vous n'aimez pas publier vos histoires sordides.

Ryad Haroub: C'est un argument cher à nos ennemis, dont la plupart sont d'ailleurs nos concurrents. Ils n'acceptent simplement pas notre succès. Car nous ne raffolons pas particulièrement des scandales ou des faits divers sordides. Mais contrairement à eux, qui font de l'information institutionnelle, nous rapportons les faits qui concernent la population. Comme les journaux européens, nous publions ce que nous savons. Qu'y a-t-il de mal là-dedans?

L. J.: Vos détracteurs vous accusent aussi de mentir...

R. H.: Les menteurs, ce sont eux. "Shihan" est le seul journal populaire du pays. Il tranche sur le reste de la presse, qui s'insurge et clame haut et fort que ce que nous écrivons est faux. L'accusation est ridicule. Cette semaine, par exemple, nous parlons d'une femme, emprisonnée pour avoir épousé deux hommes. Je ne l'ai pas inventée. Je l'ai rencontrée à la prison de Juweideh, avec une autorisation des services de police. Ce qui m'intéresse, c'est d'écouter et de comprendre les raisons de son acte. Le plus amusant, c'est que les gens qui se disent «chocés» sont principalement des gens éduqués, qui ont voyagé en France, en Grande-Bretagne, aux Etats-Unis.

L. J.: Vos détracteurs vous accusent aussi de mentir...

R. H.: Non. Si nous ne sommes pas sûrs de notre coup, nous ne publions pas. Nous avons notre éthique et, croirez-moi, nous rejetons beaucoup de sujets, qui nous sont proposés. On en trouve d'ailleurs certains, parmi les plus farfelus, dans d'autres journaux... Ce qui arrive également, c'est que les gens nous appellent au secours. Et là encore, nous refusons d'écrire, si l'histoire est trop sensible. Ainsi, nous avons du dire non à un jour à une personne, qui est venue nous signaler qu'un de ses voisins abusait sexuellement de sa fille. "Aidez-la", nous a-t-il demandé. Que pouvions-nous faire?

L. J.: Croyez-vous que vous finirez par être reconnu comme un "bon journal"?

R. H.: M. Smeidi, qui est un journaliste arabe renommé, écrit cette semaine dans nos colonnes que "Shihan" est un bon journal et que les autres nous imiteront bientôt. J'en suis moi aussi persuadé. Dans deux ou trois ans, le journalisme populaire sera à la mode. Croyez-moi!

Propos recueillis par A. R.

s'est pas faite attendre. Le 28 décembre 1985, "Shihan" se voit prié de plier bagages. Interdit de publication en vertu de la loi martiale, le journal s'est installé à Athènes. «En moins de deux mois, nous reprenons notre travail», poursuit Ryad Haroub. Mon équipe travaillait toujours à Amman. Elle envoyait les films des pages en Grèce, où nous imprimeions. Chaque édition reprenait ensuite le chemin du pays. «Elle était visée par la censure, puis mise en kiosques. Profitant de son "exil" grec, "Shihan" s'est alors mis à la couleur. Notamment pour redresser une courbe de vente en chute libre. En février 1986, le tirage de l'hebdomadaire culminait à 20.000 exemplaires seulement.

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Alain Renon.

Après quelques temps passé à nouveau en Grèce, Ryad Haroub optait pour le Caire. «J'y ai obtenu un droit de publication, bien que mon journal ne soit pas égyptien». Entre temps, "Shihan" avait repris un rythme de croisière, avec 40.000 numéros mis en vente chaque semaine. «Les petites annonces, que nous sommes les seuls à proposer [voir ci-dessous] ont joué un rôle important», estime un journaliste de la rédaction.

Le mois dernier, l'odyssée prenait fin avec son retour «définitif» au royaume. «Cette fois, nous avons obtenu toutes les garanties, y compris royale», insiste Ryad Haroub. Imprimé sur les presses de "Dostour", le journal tire aujourd'hui à 35.000 exemplaires et totalise une diffusion de 25.000. «Dans deux mois, nous en imprimerons 50.000», assure son patron.

Un patron rassuré, qui affiche une belle sérénité et de grandes ambitions. «Il y a deux semaines, nous avons créé "Le Drapé de l'Islam", un hebdomadaire destiné à destination d'un public musulman populaire. Et dans quelques semaines, nous mettrons en kiosque un mensuel pour les jeunes et un autre pour les amateurs de mots croisés, d'échecs...», révèle Ryad Haroub.

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...!

EN BREF

Partis. Le président du Parlement jordanien a indiqué jeudi dans une interview accordée au journal égyptien "Al-Ahram" que «d'annonce de la constitution de partis politiques [dans le royaume] aura lieu en toute probabilité dans les trois prochains mois». Suleiman Arar a en outre confirmé la prochaine abrogation de l'état d'urgence dans le pays, ajoutant que les lois restreignant les libertés publiques seraient également supprimées. Le chef du gouvernement, Moudar Badrane, avait annoncé le 1er janvier la suppression avant six mois de la loi martiale, en vigueur depuis 1967.

Visites. Jimmy Carter doit quitter Amman aujourd'hui, au terme d'une visite de trois jours en Jordanie. Reçu par les principaux responsables du pays, l'ancien président américain a évoqué avec eux les derniers événements régionaux et l'évolution du processus de paix entre Palestiniens et Israéliens. M. Carter s'enverra aujourd'hui à destination de l'Etat hébreu, dernière étape d'une tournée qui l'a déjà successivement mené à Caire puis à Damas, où il s'est entretenu avec le président Assad. Parrain du traité de paix israélo-égyptien de 1979, l'ancien numéro un américain avait souligné à son départ des Etats-Unis, dimanche dernier, qu'il s'employerait à explorer les moyens de promouvoir une coopération politique et économique à long terme entre Israël et ses voisins arabes. Par ailleurs, le secrétaire général des Nations Unies, Javier Perez de Cuellar, est attendu le 27 mars à Amman, pour un séjour privé de quatre jours. Ce voyage répond à une invitation du roi Hussein, ont indiqué jeudi les autorités.

Sit-in. Près de 150 personnes, représentant les familles de détenus et de fonctionnaires licenciés pour des raisons politiques, ont organisé mercredi un sit-in devant le siège de la présidence du Conseil des ministres à Amman. Le rassemblement, qui a duré trois heures, a été marqué par une échauffourée entre manifestants et forces de l'ordre, qui ont fait usage de matraques. Une délégation a ensuite été reçue par le ministre de l'Intérieur, qui a promis d'étudier leurs doléances. Salem al-Massa'deh a affirmé que le gouvernement s'apprête à examiner le cas de ces prisonniers, au nombre de 31 selon lui, «qui ne sont pas classés comme des détenus politiques, mais qui ont été condamnés pour des affaires criminelles liées à des causes politiques». Le ministre a par ailleurs souligné que la réintégration des fonctionnaires licenciés restait «conditionnée par les possibilités financières de l'Etat et par l'existence de postes vacants».

Crise. Le président israélien, Eshai Herzog, doit entamer aujourd'hui ses consultations en vue de la formation d'un nouveau cabinet, après la chute, jeudi soir, du gouvernement d'Yitzhak Shamir. Le numéro un du Likoud [droite] a dû s'incliner sur un vote de censure de la Knesset, le Parlement israélien. Sur les 120 députés de la Chambre, 60 ont voté la motion de censure déposée par le Parti travailliste. 55 ont voté contre et 5 élus religieux se sont abstenus. M. Shamir est le premier chef de gouvernement israélien à se voir refuser la confiance de la Knesset depuis la création de l'Etat hébreu. Une guerre politique, qui ne rend cependant pas sa succession évidente. Le Parti travailliste ne dispose en effet que de 39 sièges au Parlement. Si son leader, Shimon Peres, est désigné par le chef de l'Etat, il disposerait d'un délai de 21 jours, renouvelable une seule fois, pour constituer un nouveau gouvernement. En cas d'échec, les Israéliens retourneront aux urnes.

Exécution. Le journaliste anglais d'origine iranienne, Farzad Bazoft, condamné à mort pour «espionnage» il y a une semaine à Bagdad, a été exécuté jeudi, malgré les appels à la clémence lancés par Londres. Margaret Thatcher a aussi qualifié cette exécution d'«acte de barbarie, qui ne peut qu'inspirer le dégoût des gens civilisés». Le Foreign Office lui a emboîté le pas, en rappelant le jour même son ambassadeur en Irak et en annonçant le renvoi de six étudiants irakiens suivant des cours au ministère de la Défense ainsi que la suspension de toutes les visites ministérielles avec ce pays. Le correspondant de "The Observer" était accusé par Bagdad d'avoir travaillé pour les services de renseignement israéliens et britanniques. Des manifestations ont été organisées hier dans la capitale irakienne pour protester contre l'attitude de Londres.

Gorbatchev président. Mikhail Gorbachev a été élu mercredi soir premier président de l'URSS. 1.578 des 2.250 députés soviétiques ont pris part au vote à bulletin secret. M. Gorbachev, qui était le seul candidat en lice, a obtenu 59,2% des voix. Le poste de président soviétique avait été introduit quelques jours auparavant dans la constitution soviétique.

Strasbourg. Les députés européens sont parvenus mercredi à un accord sur le lieu de session de leur Parlement, mettant un terme au conflit entre les partisans de Strasbourg et de Bruxelles. Le bureau de l'Assemblée est convenu que les 12 sessions ordinaires annuelles contineraient de se tenir dans la ville française, mais que des réunions extraordinaires pourraient être convoquées à Bruxelles.

Mitterrand-Bush. Les présidents français et américain se rencontreront le 19 avril en Floride, a annoncé l'Elysée mercredi. Le précédent tête-à-tête entre François Mitterrand et George Bush avait eu lieu le 16 décembre aux Antilles et avait porté sur les bouleversements en Europe de l'Est.

Racisme. Les ambassadeurs du Maroc, de Tunisie et d'Algérie en France ont été reçus mercredi à Paris par le Secrétaire général du ministère des Affaires étrangères, François Chevallier, à la suite des agressions racistes, dont ont été victimes les deux week-end dernier en France de jeunes immigrés. Les trois diplomates ont notamment exprimé leur «indignation». Un adolescent marocain a été intentionnellement renversé et tué par un automobiliste français à Roanne, dans le centre du pays, alors qu'à Saint-Florentin (Yonne), un restaurateur a grièvement blessé deux jeunes frères, marocains eux aussi, dont l'un est décédé mardi soir.

Trou dans l'ozone

Le Pôle Nord serait aussi atteint

Après le Pôle Sud, où un trou est apparu depuis quelques années dans la couche d'ozone, le Pôle Nord semble à son tour atteint par ce phénomène, selon un communiqué publié vendredi à Washington par la NASA. «Le processus chimique qui amène l'appauvrissement de la couche d'ozone dans l'Antarctique est présent dans l'hémisphère Nord et quelques régions de la stratosphère au dessus de l'Artique pourraient avoir enregistré des pertes atteignant 17% au cours de l'hiver 1988-1989», a notamment indiqué l'agence spatiale américaine.

Ce constat fait suite à une mission de plusieurs mois, coordonnée par la NASA et réunissant plusieurs instituts scientifiques des Etats-Unis. Les analyses effectuées au cours de cette opération ont ainsi mis en évidence des densités «accrues» de chlore et un taux «plus bas que prévu» d'oxyde d'azote. Deux phénomènes, qui montrent que l'atmosphère arctique est privée pour l'apparition d'un trou dans la couche d'ozone.

Cette dernière protège la surface terrestre des états nocifs du rayonnement ultra-violet du Soleil. Son amincissement est notamment dû à la propagation dans l'air du Fréon, un gaz utilisé dans la fabrication de sprays.

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Throes and throbs in campus for student union

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the footsteps of almost every other movement and school of thought in Jordan since the Nov. 8 general elections, university students are also gearing up to establish an organisation of their own, but ideas differ on whether the proposed grouping should be politicised or merely academic.

Attempts are currently being made to form a federation that would eventually encompass separate potential unions for the nearly 45,000 students in the Kingdom's four universities as well as the approximately 30,000 students pursuing higher education at the 53 registered community colleges.

Students of the University of Jordan, where every form of thinking and trend has found a receptive audience over the years, have taken the lead in pursuing what they see as their right to organise and make their voice heard on the national scene.

Irid-based Yarmouk University, 88 kilometres north of Amman, has also turned into a venue for intensive debate to determine the shape and guidelines of the projected federation.

According to student and administration sources, work towards this goal took an active turn following the Nov. 8 general elections, which produced a "multi-party" Lower House of Parliament for the

campus, students'

first time since 1956, when political parties were allowed to run in elections.

Since the Nov. 8 elections, the University of Jordan, which has 18,000 students, turned into a theatre for heated debate aimed at reaching a common formula to form a union with political leanings to serve as the nucleus for the national federation," according to students interviewed by the Jordan Times.

Many students expressed their concern, however, that their objective was being undermined by the authorities and the university's administration.

While the deans of student affairs sought to supervise student activities aimed at muster support for the union, a Cabinet decision called for shelving moves to form any student unions or political parties until after the creation of a "national charter."

An official source told the Jordan Times the Cabinet decided recently to postpone official recognition of student unions until after the formulation of the national charter, which would lay the ground rules and mechanisms for unions and political life in the Kingdom.

Officially banned in 1957, Jordan's hitherto clandestine political parties won limited seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament in the Nov. 8 polls.

On the campus, students'

activities are still underway to form the union which should be governed by "new guidelines to cope with the current democratic changes on the street," according to Yussef Siyam, university of Jordan's dean of student affairs.

Siyam said his department stepped in to participate in and regulate student activities and dialogue so as to build a common ground between the students and the administration in the period before forming the union.

In effect, the projected union is a resurrection of a short-lived federation at the University of Jordan that was formed in 1972 and frozen in 1974 after the university's administration decided that the union had stepped beyond the legal boundaries drawn in its charter.

Siyam said the defunct union's regulations stipulated "that it shouldn't bear any political, sectarian or religious characteristics."

After the university's administration "decided that the union's activities weren't in line with the set rules, the administration froze it and instead formed 34 academic societies each representing a section of the university's 13 faculties," Siyam added.

Students interviewed by the Jordan Times contended that the societies' activities were "strictly academic and cultural, void of any political colour."

According to Siyam, reactivating the dissolved federation needs a thorough study and amendments should be introduced to the current laws so as to accommodate changes in the Jordanian political arena.

"Since the projected union would be politically active, an official greenlight is required," he said. Furthermore, the union should secure "a majority or a consensus decision by the students," Siyam added.

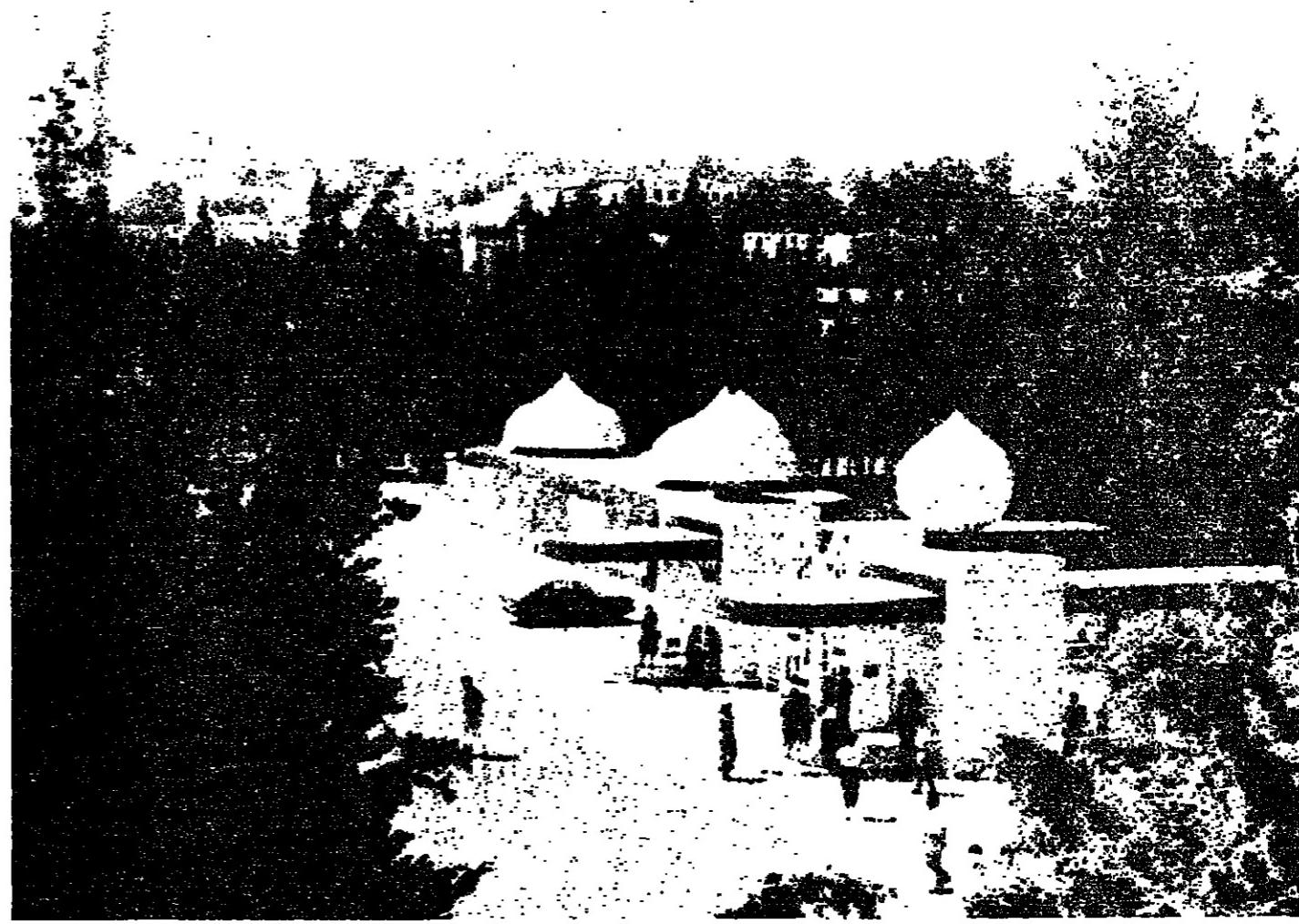
Meanwhile, the political groupings in the Kingdom have gained more and more supporters on the campus, as reflected from the activities taking place.

On Feb. 15, the Samir Rifai auditorium at the University of Jordan was packed with nearly 1,000 students for a symposium to lay down the groundwork for the union and to identify cross sections amongst politically-active students.

The symposium had a rather Islamist characteristic both in shape and in form. Mostly bearded male students were segregated from predominantly veiled females who heard conflicting views about the shape of the future union.

Supervised by Siyam, the two-hour long activity was part of a series of similar gatherings organised by representatives of the 13 academic committees which are, in effect, politically active.

According to an official source at the university, the



Students of the University of Jordan have taken the lead in striving to set up a union for themselves but the question is: Where is the drawing line between politics and academics?

"actual political map on the campus" is largely a reflection of political groupings in the Lower House, which is dominated by Islamist deputies who occupy a quarter of the seats.

The source, however, said that nearly 75 per cent of the students fall under "the silent majority who have no political affiliations but they support certain groupings according to their respective clout and pub-

lic relations."

Based on reports from various educational institutions, what goes on at the University of Jordan is invariably reflected in almost every other institute of higher learning.

An official source at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) stresses that the university is not opposed "to establishing a general students federation, be

it on a national or university level."

The source was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as reiterating JUST President Kamel Al Ajlouni's stand that "a legislative framework in preparation for the union" was necessary.

Ajlouni, the source added, advocated two methods for passing the legislation: the first one through official channels

and the second one originating from the university which then gains official recognition from the executive and legislative branches.

Ajlouni expressed his university's readiness to join efforts with the students but said the students should study the project "objectively and through the academic societies which are legally elected by the students."

Politics delay birth of university professors union

By Mariz M. Shabani
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Controversy has hit efforts to set up the first association for teachers in Jordan even before they could get off the ground, and most observers predict a long, drawn-out struggle before an organisation is formed to represent university academic staff in the Kingdom.

Academic staff of the University of Jordan held two meetings earlier this month; the first one was attended by over 160 professors and lecturers while the second gathering, held last Monday, saw the number increase to 300 but also heralded a severe blow to their moves to set up an organisation.

The main procedural point of contention focused on a preparatory committee to supervise work towards the formal establishment of an organisation for university teachers. While the first meeting had set up an ad hoc committee, the second meeting named an eight-member panel to do the job. And here is where the controversy was sparked.

During the second meeting, most of the 300 academics in attendance agreed that they wanted an association. Four said that they were against it and about 60 abstained from indicating what they wanted.

After four hours of discussions and deliberations, most of the supporters of the original ad hoc committee had left. By 8:30 — 9:00 p.m. only 80 people remained in the Samir Rifai auditorium.

The original self-appointed 27-member preparatory com-

mittee had been composed of mainly two blocs, one staunchly pro-establishment and the other mainly of enlightened liberals. More than half of the new eight-member preparatory committee are "Islamists." Not only does the new steering committee reflect drastic change in the ideological trend of the preparatory committee, it only represents eight out of the university's 13 faculties.

The tug-of-war between ideological trends evident in almost all of Jordan's professional associations and unions has not escaped the academic circles in higher education.

Most of the academics who spoke to the Jordan Times said that the actual number of professors who were "Islamists" on campus exceeded no more than 60 and thus the domi-

nance of the group in the preparatory committee was "disproportionate."

While the so-called traditional pro-establishment segment of the university's faculty was able to find common ground with the self-proclaimed enlightened liberals who are pressing for educational reforms as well as benefits for the teaching staff, many of them fear that no common ground may be found with the Islamists.

The manner in which the elections were held is an indication of how some elements on campus may guide this whole union that we are proposing," said Dr. Fawaz Toukan, who headed the original steering committee. Toukan, who is viewed by several of his colleagues as extremely pro-establishment, said the election was

"totally illegitimate" and said new elections would be held some time this week.

"Some people manoeuvred the whole meeting last week and that is unacceptable. You can't have elections if the voters aren't there. The whole thing was ridiculous," he said.

The rapporteur of the new steering committee, Dr. Abdul Majed Al Tel from the Faculty of Agriculture, disagreed. "Those who did not bother to stay till the end of the meeting to vote obviously did not care sufficiently about the union," he said.

"What exactly will happen is still unclear, but several things can be concluded from events last week;

— If the academics are genuinely interested in forming an association they will have to

go to the meetings and actively participate in both the procedural and actual context of this union.

Different politicised and non-politicised elements will have to learn to find common ground for establishing a union.

The rapporteur of the new steering committee stressed that the "bargaining position" of the academic staff vis-a-vis the administration be strengthened and that a framework for educational reforms and philosophies be introduced.

Several professors who are actively involved in trying to set up a union felt that the lack of political and social consciousness among the university's

faculty was a main reason for the teachers association's "slow start."

Like all other professional associations, teachers unions were banned in the 1970s. According to professors belonging to all ideological groupings, the perception that seven out of 10 applicants to the University of Jordan are rejected by the security service does "nothing for the consciousness on campus."

Those who screamed sabotage last week as the elections were held said that the organisational strength of the Islamists was "one more legacy that the era of martial law left us."

The Islamists, although relatively weak in actual numbers, are resented by many because they were allowed to operate

with a relatively free hand, especially in the ministry of education, during the martial law era.

While members of the university's teaching staff are likely to have a "showdown" soon over who will run the teachers' association, on what basis and with what purpose in mind, teachers at other universities in the Kingdom are busy forming their own unions.

Faculty members at Yarmouk University have approached the university's president and he has given them his blessing to form a union," said one source who asked to remain anonymous. Faculty members at the Jordan University of Science and Technology have also confirmed that a similar process is occurring on their campus.

Memorial week for witches

Belief in witches has not died out. Modern-day belief runs in cycles. Just after the war, a flood of female refugees without men stoked the embers of witchcraft... now read on with Edward Kopp in the columns of the Hamburg weekly Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt.

ALICE SCHWARZER, publisher and editor of the women's magazine Emma, usually sees this great witch hunt, men such as the Jesuit Friedrich Spee (1591-1635) from Langenfeld and Johanna Kruse (1889-1983).

Johanna Kruse, a teacher in Hamburg, was the prime mover behind the collection owned by Hamburg's Ethnological Museum. He was born 100 years ago.

For decades he collected together informative material, which showed that a belief in witches had its effect still.

After his death in 1983 his archives were given to the Museum. They included letters from women victims of persecution and from persecutors, male and female. The victims sought Kruse's help against being condemned as witches; the persecutors supposedly gave "collegial advice."

Elke Allinger, as historian from Berlin, has done an M.R. thesis on the letters in Kruse's collection. She said: "One in four of the women letter-writers complained about the agony she suffered, but the majority regarded Kruse as the famous witches' colleague."

Of the many thousands of letters from the period 1950 to 1974 only just about one hundred have been preserved. It seems that Kruse destroyed the others, fearing that they would be misused.

He offered his suffering correspondents understanding and assistance, and he knew only too well what dicey material he had collected together. He also knew exactly what stimulating

effects such reports and personal accounts would have.

In correspondence with any number of official quarters he tried to establish that no reference should be made to witches in schoolbooks or fairy-tales. He even wanted to go so far as to prohibit all portrayals of witches in the public domain.

He argued that many women, presented in pictures as witches, looked just like many village women, old and bowed down by their labours.

Kruse's collection includes documents dealing with court proceedings and "medicines against witchcraft" which he had come across in a Hamburg chemist's shop in the 1950s.

Only now is it being revealed that these included, for instance, asafoetida, a homoeopathic medicament which was used against asthma.

Kruse did not count on that," said Heidi Staschen. She is one of the initiators of the Hamburg Witches Exhibition, which has been going the rounds of the Federal Republic for the past 12 years. She produced the extensive, informative catalogue for this exhibition.

Johann Kruse also collected publications and hard-to-come-by reports on investigation dealing with the witch cult.

Obviously he knew many "witches" and "witch exorcists" in North Germany and Bavaria by name, as well as just as many victims and perpetrators of this shady profiteering.

How could such a "witches' advocate" be honoured? The Ethnological Museum and Heidi Staschen, attached to the museum administration, planned a series of evening discussions on his work.

It was obvious to them that to honour someone meant doing justice to their work. Herr Pintschovius has curly hair and dresses in black. He is an

ethnologist for whom the "masquerade of the new witches" does not come up to the serious matter of witches. He has collected masses of material. "Even today people believe that they have a witch's spell on them," he said. If things go wrong, animals and people fall sick and property is damaged people quite regularly begin talking about the "evil people," about witches and magicians.

Modern belief in witchcraft has gone in cycles, frequently related to social change: between 1860 and 1890 with the replacement of aristocratic land ownership and in 1945-1946 with the flood of female refugees without men. The fantasy often soars prompted by envy and resentment.

Hans-Joska Pintschovius believes that such sociological theories are not adequate. There are also psychological factors.

People were often arrested on being accused of having dealings with the Devil. "people who were not integrated into the manners and customs of the location."

For this reason Herr Pintschovius frequently locates belief in witches in small towns.

He has tracked down not only victims but also persecutors. These women magicians, whom he knows and who describe themselves in this manner, fulfill two preconditions, which could astonish Alice Schwarzer: they are married and have acquired their knowledge from another person, mainly from a person of the opposite sex.

It is indeed quite a different matter admitting that one is someone who dabbles in the supernatural to being accused of being a witch. But their are examples of both, the acknowledge practitioner and the victim, even today.

Do women need the myth of the witch as the stronger, cleverer, wiser women? There is always a propensity to throw into the

scales the argument that women have been hounded to death because of their special abilities, knowing how to perform abortions, their knowledge of healing and how to trick men.

Women, who liked to believe in this "special knowledge," contradict historians, who only take the facts into consideration. Dagmar Greiss from the women's group in Bad Oldesloe, said: "Even today many women are victims, they are dependent and violated, just like the witches of old." But there is little historical evidence for this argument.

During the discussion in the Hamburg Witches' Memorial Week women members of the audience made the point that anyone who raised up witches as an example "emphasised too much the victim myth women constantly had to deal with."

The work on historical sources and unhistorical emancipation emotion were irreconcilable with one another.

A man asked: "Who is helped by source research. Isn't it enough to listen to one's own inner sources?"

Dagmar Unverhau said that the witch hunt showed itself to be an instrument for suppression with considerable possibilities for development, and warned against explanations of the cause of witch hunts which were too plausible. Her warning was only moderately successful.

Dagmar Greiss said that the two authors of the famous witch hunters manual, Malleus Maleficarum, Jacob Sprenger and Heinrich Krämer, were Dominican monks and sexually inhibited. That was how the mass hysteria came about.

Hans-Joska Pintschovius had a simple answer to such (false) conclusions. He said: "Since the Reformation both churchmen and state officials have sat in judgment on witches. It was not only a church matter."

The sole undisputed feature of the witch was her role as victim. The witch, taken up by the women's liberation movement since 1977, is a dubious symbol. She had one wish for feminist friends and visitors to the Witches Week: "I hope that we women do not need this myth of the witch as a stronger, more courageous friends early example of the emancipated woman." If Alice Schwarzer had heard this there would have been plenty of discussion.

Goya's Linda Maestra!

or me."

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Economy

Brazil announces emergency measures

BRASILIA (AP) — New President Fernando Collor de Mello Friday announced a sweeping emergency package of economic reforms, including a price freeze, a new currency, and jail terms for "economic crimes."

"Brazilians want serious action now," Collor de Mello said during a nationally televised cabinet meeting on his first full day in office.

The 40-year-old president, who took office Thursday as Brazil's first popularly elected leader in 29 years, faces a 2.700 per cent annual inflation rate and a \$31 billion budget deficit.

"This year's federal deficit will be zero ..." he pledged.

"There's no way to knock down inflation if the government spends more than it takes in," said Collor de Mello, who has already announced that some government ministries would be dissolved and that there would be dismissals among the 700,000 federal employees.

Collor de Mello froze prices for 30 days and said salaries in March will be adjusted to the February inflation rate, which was 73 per cent. Inflation targets for April will be restudied on April 15, and salaries and prices will be adjusted by a government-set amount, a system the president called "pre-fixation."

TV Globo, Brazil's largest commercial network, reported the salary and price hikes would be 40 per cent in April and 20 per cent in May.

Oman calls for GCC-EC joint marketing authority

MUSCAT (AP) — Foreign Minister Yousef Ibn Alawi called on the European Community (EC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Saturday to set up a joint body to direct petrochemicals manufacturing and marketing.

Alawi made the call when he inaugurated a meeting of EC and GCC foreign ministers in Muscat, the first since the EC Commission last December sanctioned a free trade pact with the six-nation GCC.

Alawi stressed that greater effort was needed to overcome political and economic problems.

He is the current chairman of the GCC, which groups Oman

with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

"We consider the EC states most important trade partners for the GCC ... and for this we seek mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

Petrochemicals has been a thorny issue in cooperation between the two groups.

The pro-Western Gulf countries found their attempts to break away from dependence on oil exports by moving into oil-related industries have run up against EC tariffs.

Their concern about EC protectionism has heightened with the approach of a united Europe in 1992.

The foreign minister of Ireland, current chairman of the EC,

Fooling people

"Whoever tries to cheat and fool the people will be jailed," he said, adding that store owners and managers found guilty of economic crimes will face five-year jail terms.

Outlined by Collor de Mello were numbered, interest-bearing bank accounts and certificates of deposits. Financial institutions used to finance its deficit.

The market has paid interest rates of up to 100 per cent a month, but withdrawals will be limited to about \$600, she said.

Cardoso de Mello called the new measures "tough and wide-ranging" and said they were necessary to head off hyperinflation. The minister said the frozen deposits would affect few Brazilians.

"Walk down the street, talk to your maid or a taxi driver, and you'll find they don't have money in the overnight market," she said.

After making the announcement, Collor de Mello delivered copies of his plan to congress.

Most of the economic reforms were sent to congress as "provisional measures," which take effect immediately but can be voted down within 30 days. They also become null if congress fails to call a vote within the same period.

Collor de Mello declared a new law against "economic abuses," such as withholding goods from the market, financial speculation and illegal price hikes.

Collor de Mello said the measures would bring down inflation

here have advertised such accounts on television and in newspapers, with the slogan, "it's just like being in Switzerland."

Other promised new measures included:

— New taxes on the personal fortunes and on capital gains from trading in stocks and gold.

— The suspension of \$2.2 billion in annual federal subsidies to private enterprise, that go to everyone from exporters to the computer industry.

— The dismissals of some of Brazil's 700,000 federal employees.

— Elimination of government bureaucracy surrounding imports to Brazil and an ill-defined "floating exchange rate" relative to the U.S. dollar for certain importers.

— Privatisation of some of Brazil's 188 state-owned companies, many of which operate at a loss.

They have total debts of about \$62 billion.

Details about new tax rates, who would be fired, and what firms would be privatised were not provided.

On Thursday, Collor de Mello signed laws that reduced the number of government ministries from 25 to 12 and ordered the sales of government-owned mansions and cars.

He also ordered 24 federal agencies and companies dissolved, including the Brazilian Institute of Coffee, which controls all coffee trade.

AFM boom lifts

National Portfolio Securities Company

By a Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — The boom in trading that the Amman Financial Market (AFM) registered last year had a direct positive impact on the operations of the National Portfolio Securities (NPS) Company which has reported an annual turnover of share and bond trading of JD 45,087,689 during 1989 compared to JD 12,685,549 during 1988.

According to the NPS' annual report, AFM floor trading amounted to JD 367 million of which 65.4 per cent were industrial shares, 23.6 per cent financial, 8.9 per cent services and 2.1 per cent insurance shares.

NPS captured 38 per cent of the financial sector and 37 per cent of the industrial sector. The remainder went to insurance shares (eight per cent), service companies (seven per cent) and government and other public corporation bonds (10 per cent).

For its own portfolio, NPS traded shares and bonds worth JD 19,481,873 compared to only JD 5,345,725 in the previous year. The company's trading on the account of clients amounted to JD 25,605,817 compared to JD 7,339,824 during 1988.

The company netted JD 570,284 from trading for its own portfolio and it also earned JD 124,869 in commissions from its clients but the net income after various general and administrative expenses stood at JD 545,453 for the year ending Dec. 31, 1989.

However, due to amortisation of losses amounting to JD 443,000 during the last four years, the net profit was down by JD 67,893 resulting in a JD 477,560 profit of which JD 225,000 was allocated for dividends to be distributed among the shareholders.

A further JD 109,090 was transferred to the voluntary reserves while JD 54,545 was added to the obligatory or legal reserves leaving a retained earnings of JD 25,124 after some other minor allocations.

At the end of the 1989, the balance sheet showed that NPS held shares and bonds in its portfolio worth JD 2,287,621 compared to JD 1,656,359 in the previous year. The figures, reflecting the market price or cost whichever is lowest, translate into JD 2,373,628 and JD 1,674,186 respectively at the market price on Dec. 31, 1989.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 18, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day to go after both long time desired hopes and wishes as well as the more recent aims that have been coursing through your consciousness. Take some definite action to gain this appealing ambition.

couples. Don't get upset there is much activity taking place at your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Discussion for practical matters at social gatherings bring good ideas for your progress. Invite couples who are proven loyal friends into your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be with no nonsense types of friends and you will have a fine time socially. Much activity in doing things with mate brings considerable romantic happiness.

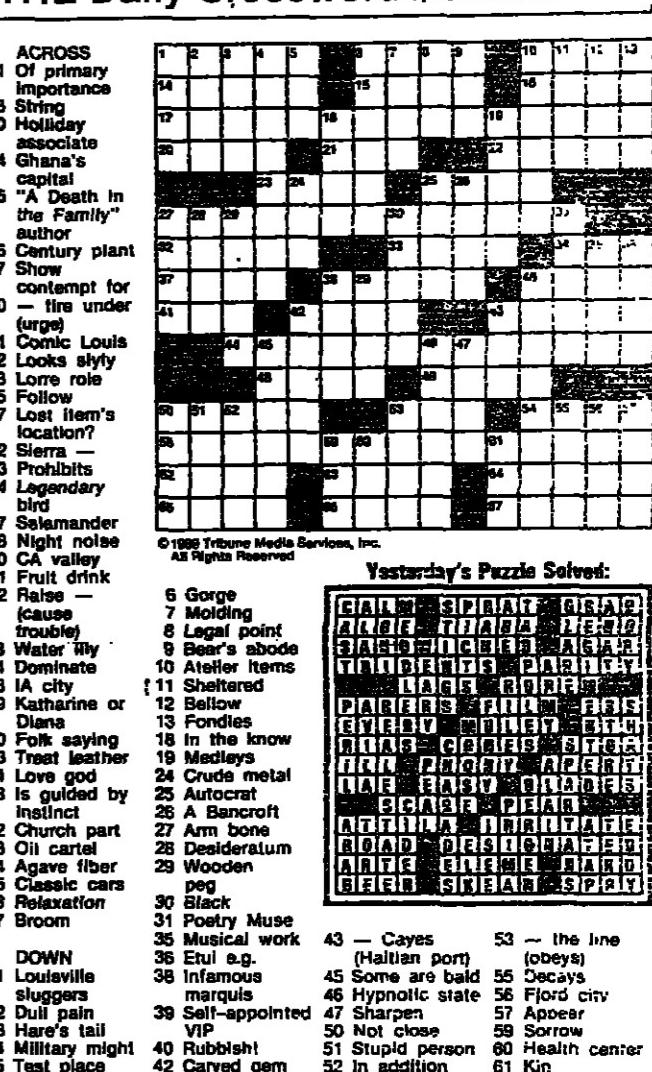
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get off alone for intimate conversations with your best friends for a good time. Your happiness time with your attachment will be beneath your roof.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your usual routines require more confidence in performing them now. Fine day for taking jaunts with family, but use care in motion.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) So many friends want your time and presence now that you will need to discriminate with care. Take your mate with you at outside social gatherings.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A friendly couple are ready, willing and able to cheerfully help you with your duties. Show appreciation by entertaining those who help you socially.

THE Daily Crossword



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAFIE

...EULI

OAPIN

...LNUO

AGGIZZ

...CAGGI

EMFONT

...TOMPE

He doesn't know what he's talking about

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Missouri had the name Iowa had the game

NEW YORK (AP) — Maurice Newby hit a 3-pointer with one second left Friday to give Northern Iowa a shocking 45-41 victory over 11th-ranked Missouri in the opening round of the U.S. College Basketball Championship's southeast regional play-offs.

It was the biggest upset so far in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's annual playoff tournament — a 14th-seeded team from an obscure conference beating a third-seeded squad from the big eight, one of the nation's elite leagues. A team with no NCAA tournament experience beating a team that was ranked No. 1 in the nation before a late-season stamp.

"Words can't describe what this means to be, to the players, to the school and the community," said Northern Iowa Coach Eldon Miller, who took Western Michigan and Ohio State to the NCAA tournament earlier in his career.

Missouri (26-6) rallied from a 12-point deficit to tie the score at 71 on a three-point play by Nathan Bustin with 29 seconds left.

But Northern Iowa (23-8) called time to set up a final play, and Newby worked himself free on the left wing for the winning 20-footer.

"It was only going to take the shot if I was open," said Newby, who

finished with nine points. "I was open, and I didn't rush it."

The Panthers' next opponent will be Minnesota, which beat Texas-El Paso 64-61 in overtime. Syracuse, a 70-68 winner over Coppin State, will play the Virginia-Notre Dame winner in another second-round showdown.

In other opening-round games, Duke routed Richmond 81-46, St. John's trounced Temple 81-65 and UCLA beat Alabama-Birmingham 68-56 in the East; Georgetown beat Texas Southern 70-52, Xavier, Ohio, downed Kansas State 87-79 and Texas defeated Georgia 100-98 in the Midwest and Arizona beat South Florida 79-67 and Alabama eliminated Colorado State 71-54 in the West.

The second-round matchups are Duke-St. John's, Georgetown-Xavier and Arizona-Alabama. UCLA plays the winner of Kansas-Robert Morris and Texas meets the Purdue-Northeast Louisiana winner.

Missouri (26-6) lost four of its last five games, including an opening-round loss to Colorado in the big eight tournament.

"We were flat today," said Missouri coach Norm Stewart, who started his career at Northern Iowa. "But it doesn't take anything away from their effort."

RUST
No. 15 Duke 81, Richmond 46

At Atlanta, reserve Alia Abdellatif triggered a first-half spurt and finished with 22 points as the Blue Devils gave coach Mike Krzyzewski his 300th career victory.

The Blue Devils (25-6), who have reached the final four three of the last four years, led 8-6 when Abdellatif entered the game.

St. John's 81, Temple 65

Malik Sealy and Greg "Boo" Harvey sparked a decisive 20-2 run by St. John's in the first half.

The Redmen (24-9) never trailed after Jason Buchanan broke a 12-12 tie on a 3-pointer with 10:06 left in the first half.

UCLA 68, Alabama-Birmingham 56

Trevor Wilson scored 23 points and UCLA overcame an 11-0 deficit to beat Alabama-Birmingham.

MIDWEST
No. 8 Georgetown 78, Tennessee 52

At Indianapolis, Mark Tilmann scored 22 points and 7-foot-2 Dikembe Motumbu had 18 points and 16 rebounds as Georgetown beat cold-shooting Texas Southern.

The Hoyas (24-6), who led the nation in defensive field goal percentage, held the Tigers to 27 percent shooting from the field.

No. 25 Xavier 87, Kansas St. 79

Tyrone Hill scored 29 points and

Xavier made 37 of 43 foul shots to hold off Kansas state.

The Musketeers made only one field goal in the final seven minutes, but had 16 free throws during the span. Kansas state, which had the world record of any team in the tournament, ended its season 17-15.

No. 6 Syracuse 78, Coppin St. 48

Stephen Thompson scored 19 points and Syracuse used a 14-0 run in the second half to pull away from Coppin State.

Syracuse (25-6) is playing in its eighth consecutive NCAA tournament, while Coppin State (26-7) was making its first appearance.

WEST
No. 14 Arizona 79, S. Florida 67

At Long Beach, California, Brian Williams scored a career-high 28 points and keyed a second-half surge as Arizona rallied to beat South Florida.

Arizona (25-6), making its sixth consecutive appearance in the tournament, won for the eighth time in its last nine games. South Florida (20-11) was playing in its first NCAA tournament.

SOUTHEAST
No. 20 Minnesota 64, UTEP 61, 0t

At Richmond, Virginia, Marvin Newbern had three clutch baskets and led a strong Minnesota defense as the Gophers prevailed.

Newbern hit a 3-pointer that gave Minnesota a 53-50 lead with Henry Hall's 3-pointer with 34 seconds remaining tied it for Texas-El Paso.

Tyron Hill scored 29 points and

Bugno wins Italian classic

SAN REMO (AP) — Italy's Gianni Bugno Saturday edged West German Rolf Golz by a new seconds following a grueling 204-kilometre race to capture the Milto-San Remo road cycling classic — the opening event of the 1990 World Cup.

By capturing the most prestigious victory of his career, Bugno, 26, scored the first win by an Italian cyclist in this Riviera resort since Francesco Moser's triumph in 1984.

Frenchman Gilles Delion out-sprinted Italians Moreno Argandoña and Maurizio Fondriest for third place at the finish line.

France's Laurent Fignon, who was seeking an unprecedented third consecutive victory in the Italian race, was among a bunch of original race favourites who withdrew after 185 kilometres, while trailing the leaders by nearly 15 minutes.

Fignon, world champion Greg Lemond of the United States, Irishman Sean Kelly, Gert Jan Theunisse of the Netherlands and American Andy Hampsten were taken by surprise by a sudden attack by a group of about 120 cyclists, 20 kilometres after the start from Milan.

Austrian wins ski jump trophy

RAUFOSS, Norway (AP) — Klaus Sulzenbacher of Austria clinched the season's World Cup trophy in the Nordic combination of ski jumping and 15-kilometre cross-country ski racing Friday night.

The national NTB news agency reported that he locked it up after Soviet Allar, the only competitor with a reach shot at the title, fell ill and withdrew from the jumping competition in Loevenbergbakken.

Sulzenbacher already had assembled 156 points in previous world cup events before the 15-kilometre final event, which has scheduled for Saturday.

Levandi finished at 135 points as world cup runnerup. Knut Tore Apeland and Fred Boerne Lundberg, both of Norway, had 87 and 84 points. They were thus without any chance to overtake Sulzenbacher or Levandi regardless of their final placings Saturday.

Women's downhill postponed

ARE, Sweden (AP) — The women's World Cup Downhill finale was postponed Saturday because of poor conditions of the course. The race was tentatively rescheduled in Switzerland next week.

The chairman of the International Ski Federation (FIS) Marc Hodier, and Heinz Krecek, the coordinator of the women's world cup — plus members of the executive committee — met and decided to postpone the ninth and final downhill of the season to next week. Zinal in Switzerland was chosen as a possible new site.

"We decided that under all circumstances the final downhill must be held because there are still five competitors who can win the title," the FIS chairman said.

He added that Petra Kronberger, the 21-year-old world cup overall leader from Austria, will receive the cup here Sunday if her lead over second-placed Anita Wachter is 25 points or more after Sunday's slalom race.

The organizers said the women's race was cancelled because course conditions were too poor for two races. Men's downhill started according to schedule later Saturday.

Algeria wins African cup soccer title

ALGIERS (R) — A superb first half goal from Cherif Oudjani gave Algeria their first African Nations Cup soccer title Friday when they beat Nigeria 1-0 before 80,000 jubilant fans.

Oudjani, who plays for French club Sochaux, struck seven minutes before halftime when he picked up a ball just outside the penalty area, turned and lashed an unstoppable right-footer into the top right corner of the Nigerian goal.

His effort was a welcome oasis in a disappointing final in which neither side proved capable of creating chances — in sharp contrast to the group match between the two sides two weeks earlier in the same July 5th stadium when Algeria trounced the Nigerians 5-1.

Algeria, nevertheless, fully deserved the victory, controlling the match despite a slow start in which they allowed Nigeria to get on top only for the first 10 or 15 minutes.

But the Algerian midfield, Tidily marshalled by the busy Cherif El Ouazani, was soon in charge as an overwhelmed Nigeria seemed to limit their ambitions to preventing another rout.

The result was a suitable revenge for Algeria who had appeared in only one previous Nations Cup final — losing 3-0 in 1980 to Nigeria in Lagos.

The match was also a fitting end to the international career of 31-year-old Algerian star Rabah Madjer, playing in his fifth Nations Cup and the only survivor from the 1980 final.

If the Porto striker was not at his brilliant best, he at least managed to crown his great career with a title which had seemed destined to elude his country.

Nigeria, who have played in four African finals in the last 10 years but who have not won since 1980, fielded a young team in which exciting striker Rasheed Yakini lacked the strength he needed to worry the Algerian back four.

13-year-old scores straight-set victory

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP)

— Thirteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who finished second in her first pro tournament last week, scored a straight-set victory Friday in the opening round of the International Players Championships.

Capriati was a 7-5, 6-3 winner against fellow Floridian Luanne Spadea, a 17-year-old ranked no. 202.

Winners in men's singles on the opening day of the \$2.5 million tournament included Jakob Hlasek and Amos Mansdorf. Seeded players received first-round byes and begin competition Saturday in the 10-day event, which has attracted 17 of the top 20 men and 11 of the top 20 women.

With most big-name players missing from the schedule, Capriati was again the centrepiece of attention for reporters and photographers. The child Prodigy said she has tried to ignore the media blitz.

"It's not easy, but sometimes I just have to like block it out and

not think about it," she said. Friends and family "try to calm me down," she added.

Expectations for Capriati, already high because of her success in juniors tournaments, rose as she won her first five matches in the Virginia Slims of Florida before losing to Gabriela Sabatini in Sunday's finals.

Capriati, who has lost just three sets in her seven professional matches, needed only 79 minutes to beat Spadea.

"I didn't play as well as I'd like to," Capriati said. "I was making a lot of unforced errors."

Capriati and Spadea are both from the Fort Lauderdale area, but they had never played each other before and had practiced together only once.

"She's an extraordinary player," Spadea said. "But there are a lot of other girls out there who have as much potential as she does."

"The media has been hyping her up like she's a goddess. She's a human being, just like we are."

Capriati's forehand is her

weaker groundstroke, but it finished off Spadea in several games.

Capriati hit a forehand winner to break serve for a 6-5 lead in the first set. After holding serve to close out the set, she broke again with a forehand winner to lead the second set 1-0. A running forehand cross-court for another winner put her up 2-0.

Spadea, trailing 4-3, had a chance to get back in the match when Capriati lost the first two points of the eighth game while serving. But she came through with the only ace of the match, pulled the game out and then broke at love to clinch the match.

"I had some chances and didn't take advantage of them," Spadea said. "She played the crucial points better than I did."

Capriati's second-round match will be against sixth-seeded Helena Sukova, Capriati beat Sukova 6-1, 6-4 last week.

"I think she'll play better," Capriati said. "Because she'll know how I play and how to play me."

Ski season marred by accidents, bad weather

By Stephan Nasstrom
Associated Press

Some returned in style, including France's Caroline Merle, who won five straight in the super G and giant slalom in February and March after five months of recuperation from a knee injury suffered at Las Lenas, Argentina.

Others didn't. Like Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, a three-time overall champion, injured in a super G spill before Christmas. He did try a comeback, but in late February announced he wouldn't return for the rest of the season.

The same, desperate search for snow kept the World Cup on the move in the past few seasons as well. But it was nothing compared to this season.

Some ski experts even started talking about the greenhouse effect having made its mark on ski racing.

Also, a record number of top skiers were injured.

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Better years in store for the Olympic stadium

BERLIN (INP) — Like the city itself, Berlin's Olympic Stadium has experienced heights and depths during its existence as has no other sports facility in Europe.

In more recent years, the low points clearly outnumbered the high moments: the difficult political situation of the divided city, a broken broker between East and West, prompted many sponsors of major sporting events to avoid the huge stadium with a sell-out capacity of over 80,000. The only event to fill the stadium to capacity was the traditional final of German football's Asso-

ciation Cup. Hertha BSC, Berlin's most prominent football club, also had seen better days.

The opening of the Berlin Wall, however, promises to put an end to this misfortune. Happy days appear to be just around the corner for the Olympic Stadium, as they appear to be for all of Berlin. The steady re-integration of the city is also taking place in the stadium stands, as more than ten thousand Hertha fans from East Berlin have begun to cheer the team on since this November, in hopes of a return to first-division play.

It was only fitting that the meet in Kitzbuehel, Austria, the grand-daddy of Alpine ski racing, would suffer as well.

It was the World Cup premiere of the two-run sprint downhill. Borne out of the necessity to compromise because of the lack of snow in "Kitz," the race was a success, despite scepticism from

"It was hard to find snow in Europe in January and February," noted Wallister, who is retiring after the season.

"We had great snow conditions and very good races in America early in the season" said Wallister, a former two-time overall World Cup champion, three-time Olympic medallist and three-time world champion.

"But it was hard to find snow in

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ANC to send team for talks with De Klerk

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — The African National Congress (ANC) will send a delegation to a meeting with the white-led South African government on the political future of that country, a spokesman said Saturday.

The ANC made its stand clear at Lusaka, the Zambian capital, prepared for three days of fresh high-level diplomatic initiatives aimed at bringing about a change in the balance of political power in South Africa.

ANC spokesman Tom Sebina told the Associated Press nothing would stand in the way of the scheduled preliminary discussions April 11 in South Africa, "no matter what."

Lusaka has been the headquarters of the guerrilla movement since it was outlawed in South Africa 30 years.

On Friday, South African President F.W. de Klerk announced that ANC leaders were invited to the talks, a step towards formal power-sharing negotiations.

De Klerk said he wants to negotiate a new constitution that will bring the voiceless black majority of 28 million into the national government, but allow the 5 million whites who now wield political power a veto over major policy decisions.

In Lusaka, the ANC spokesman said its delegation would include leaders based both inside and outside South Africa.

The aim of the preliminary negotiations, he said, was to discuss the removal of obstacles blocking formal talks on the political future of the country.

The ANC seeks the end of the 3½ year state of emergency, the release of all other political prisoners and the withdrawal of army troops from black townships as

preconditions for formal discussions.

Sebina said the April 11 talks would be between only the government and the ANC. He maintained that other anti-apartheid groups would not be included.

Once the preliminary talks have been completed, he said: "The ANC has always maintained that the process of negotiations wil be democratic in itself. If other anti-apartheid organisations want to present their positions on a democratic future South Africa they are welcome to join us around the negotiating table."

Previously, Pretoria has said other leaders including those of the 10 black homelands would be present at talks on the future of the country.

De Klerk's invitation to the ANC comes amid a new flurry of diplomacy in southern Africa.

The so-called frontline states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — are holding a summit Sunday. On Monday, the 50-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU) southern Africa committee, is meeting to discuss how to settle long-time wars in the region.

On the same day, talks are expected between African leaders and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who is scheduled to stop in Lusaka on his way to the March 21 independence celebrations in Namibia.

Mandela returns home

Meanwhile Nelson Mandela returned home from a foreign tour Saturday to face a nation wracked by bloody fighting between black factions and township riots against police.

Against the background of the fighting, Mandela and other ANC leaders must prepare for their first formal talks with the white government.

Mandela, his wife Winnie, and a small entourage, were embraced by waiting black officials, and greeted with raised fists by a dozen airport workers at the stairs of the Swissair jet that brought them from Sweden.

Mandela had attended a rally and concert in his honour Friday night in Stockholm, where he had spent five days consulting with ANC President Oliver Tambo, who is recovering from a stroke.

Mandela, 71, was elected deputy president of the ANC when he began his five-nation tour in Zambia early this month, and is effectively leader of the largest black opposition group until Tambo recuperates.

Mandela is expected to lead the ANC delegation of internal and exiled officials who will meet April 11 with de Klerk to try to clear away obstacles to formal negotiations on a new constitution and an end to apartheid.

At the Stockholm rally, Mandela urged increased foreign pressure on the South African government to meet the ANC's conditions for negotiations. They include lifting the national state of emergency, freeing all prisoners convicted of politically motivated crimes, and guaranteeing returning exiles won't be arrested.

Hundreds of people have been arrested in a government crackdown on the movement, which was launched on Feb. 18 by the banned Nepali Congress Party and a coalition of left-wing groups. At least 12 people have been killed in confrontations between police and the agitators.

Birendra, in a speech broadcast by the state-owned radio station after Friday's protest, said: "We have instituted reforms as called for by the changing needs of time. And, taking into account the Nepalese aspirations, this process will continue."

He said there would be no change in the composition of the non-partisan Rashtriya Panchayat, or National Assembly. Political pluralism in the assembly is a key demand of a pro-democracy movement seeking an end to a 29-year-old royal decree banning political parties.

The Nepali Congress Party said Birendra's speech was "politically most disappointing."

"Indications of reform in the Panchayat system in the royal address cannot solve the real problems of the nation," the party said in a statement.

The speech, the statement said, "strengthened the commitment of those who have taken to the path ... to fervently carry out the movement till the objective is achieved."

Birendra, a 44-year-old graduate from Harvard University, said the partyless character of the National Assembly would continue because a 1988 national referendum had decided in its favour.

"Our political tradition relies on the popular will, and the mandate given by the national referendum is the basis for retaining" the Panchayat system, he said.

Birendra also said there could be no solution to a problem "where there irresponsible behaviour and undignified acts disregarding the interest of the country and people."

While Czechoslovakia and Hungary have stressed they do not oppose German reunification, both countries have strongly advocated that Poland be included in talks on German unification. Both countries also say that a reunified Germany should respect Poland's current borders.

The history of all the states in the Warsaw Pact is deeply intertwined with Germany's centuries-long evolution from a series of small principalities and dukedoms into a strong empire, then a Nazi dictatorship, and now the potentially 80-million strong economic powerhouse of Europe.

Saturday's Warsaw Pact gathering came on the eve of East Germany's first free elections since Adolf Hitler took power in Germany in 1933. On Thursday, Havel and West German President Richard von Weizsaecker

met in Prague on the 51st anniversary of Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia last December, Havel and foreign minister Jiri Dienstbier have swiftly moved to centre stage in East-West politics. They have visited European capitals and the superpowers to preach the ideas of a bloc-free Europe that arise from philosophies they developed as dissidents.

After receiving the ministers, Havel flew off to the mountains on the Polish border for a meeting with Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa. Only a year ago, such meetings between Czechoslovak and Polish dissidents were conducted in secret, and almost always watched or broken up by police.

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